



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Federal Trade Commission
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

**JOINT STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER ROHIT CHOPRA
AND COMMISSIONER REBECCA KELLY SLAUGHTER**

*In the Matter of Musical.ly Inc. (now known as TikTok)
Commission File Number 1723004*

February 27, 2019

The Federal Trade Commission's action to crack down on the privacy practices of Musical.ly, now known as TikTok, is a major milestone for our Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) enforcement program. Agency staff uncovered disturbing practices, including collecting and exposing the location and other sensitive data of young children. In our view, these practices reflected the company's willingness to pursue growth even at the expense of endangering children. The agency secured a record-setting civil penalty and deletion of ill-gotten data, as well as other remedies to stop this egregious conduct. This is a big win in the fight to protect children's privacy.

This investigation began before the current Commission was in place. FTC investigations typically focus on individual accountability only in certain circumstances—and the effect has been that individuals at large companies have often avoided scrutiny. We should move away from this approach. Executives of big companies who call the shots as companies break the law should be held accountable.

When any company appears to have made a business decision to violate or disregard the law, the Commission should identify and investigate those individuals who made or ratified that decision and evaluate whether to charge them. As we continue to pursue violations of law, we should prioritize uncovering the role of corporate officers and directors and hold accountable everyone who broke the law.