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FCC MAIL ROOM

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April 21, 1998

Office of the Secretary
RM 222
FCC
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Ladies & Gentlemen:

I wholeheartedly support Petition FCC RM 9242 LPFM-1 to cover a 15-mile radius.

I guess in our own way each of us who have dreamed of owning a radio station can relate to the frustration and devastating disappointment of being denied the opportunity to be able to realize your dream.

In attempts to apply for a license to own and operate a radio station, you are told in no uncertain terms that you are just wasting your time. I was told by a staff of the FCC locally that if you thought it was easy to apply and get a radio station did I feel that he would be sitting there answering inquiries instead of owning his own station.

This insensitive attitude and other incidents began 30 years ago, and the situation has not changed or gotten any better. You think in your mind one day that things are going to change and just perhaps there is hope for a minority like me to get my foot in the door. Year after year you try to keep the faith and hope that there will be an opening to that impenetrable media stronghold.

I reside and have lived in a small rural community (Homestead, Florida) whose fame, if you want to call it that, was put on the map nationally by the most devastating hurricane in history. We are 30-50 miles removed from the major media, therefore, there are many residents who do not or cannot get the broadcast locally. This leaves a tremendous void in these small communities in advertisement, public announcements, and other concerns. To me and many others, this is not fair and equitable.

Of course, we have our individual issues and topics that are entirely different from the major media in the large metropolitan area. They place emphasis on the area they serve. Then should we not have the opportunity to do the same, but the door is always closed.

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In closing, it brings to mind the plight that Moses encountered in getting the Pharaoh to let his people go; it's almost the same scenario in our request to the FCC to open up the doors of opportunities for individuals like myself to realize their dream and own a radio station. I have worked in many capacities; I have met and interacted with many individuals from all walks of life from the least of these to the highest Congress members, Senators, State Representatives and Governors, and I have come to the conclusion that in this life all things are possible.

However, in this case, my spirituality and religious upbringing began to dwindle. To date this has been a total impossibility, but I will continue to keep the faith and hope that the Commission will do the right thing and approve FCC RM 9242.

I would like to share a little background with you regarding some of the things I have done during my lifetime (see enclosure).

One of the highlights of my life was receiving the Charles Whited Spirit of Excellence Award sponsored by The Miami Herald September 30, 1997. The keynote speaker was First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. It was a very special and memorable evening.

At this time I would like to thank Mr. Bill Kennard, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, and other FCC officials for your concerns regarding the inadequacies that presently exist in the broadcast industry. You are to be commended for your efforts and the action proposed. You seem to be headed in the right direction. I speak for all of us who have had faced this dilemma for a very long time. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

Willie Brown

Willie Brown

cc: U.S. Senator Bob Graham
U.S. Representative Carrie Meek

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

Hillary Rodham Clinton served as First Lady of Arkansas for twelve years. During that time, she worked as a full-time partner of a law firm, chaired an education committee that set public school standards in Arkansas, managed a home, and cared for her husband and child. On many occasions, Hillary Clinton has spoken about the need "to find the right balance in our lives." For her, the elements of that balance are family, work, and public service.

Hillary Diane Rodham was born in Chicago, Illinois, on October 26, 1947, daughter of Dorothy Rodham and the late Hugh Rodham. She and her two younger brothers grew up in Park Ridge, Illinois, as a close-knit family. An excellent student, she was also a Girl Scout and a member of the local Methodist youth group. Hillary enjoyed sports and was always interested in politics.

She entered Wellesley College in 1965. Graduating with high honors, she then enrolled in Yale Law School, where she served on the Board of Editors of the Yale Review of Law and Social Action. There she met Bill Clinton, a fellow student. While at Yale, she developed her strong concern for protecting the interests of children and their families.

In 1973, Hillary became a staff attorney for the Children's Defense Fund. A year later, she joined the Impeachment Inquiry staff of the Judiciary Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives to work on the Watergate impeachment proceedings.

Hillary left Washington and "followed her heart to Arkansas." She married Bill Clinton in 1975. The couple both taught on the law faculty of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Their daughter, Chelsea, was born in 1980.

As First Lady of Arkansas, Hillary continued to work tirelessly on behalf of children and families. In addition to chairing the Arkansas Education Standards Committee, she founded the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families. She introduced a pioneering program called Arkansas' Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youth, which trains parents to work with their children in preschool preparedness and literacy. Hillary also served on the board of the Arkansas Children's Hospital. In recognition of her professional and personal accomplishments, Hillary was named Arkansas Woman of the Year in 1983 and Arkansas Mother of the Year in 1984.

Upon taking office, the President made health care one of his highest priorities. He appointed the First Lady to head his Task Force on National Health Care Reform. Hillary is also an author. Her book, "It Takes A Village" was published in 1996 and immediately became a New York Times best seller. In 1997 she won a Grammy Award for the audio version of the book.

Like her predecessors, Hillary Rodham Clinton brings to the role of First Lady of the United States her own special talents, experience, style, and interests. ■

WILLIE B. BROWN, SR.

Age: 61
Residence: Homestead
Family: Wife, Johnnie; daughters, Valnecia and Cherylise; sons, Willie Jr., Darwin, and Jeffery; and ten grandchildren.
Occupation: Community Activist

Paths to Excellence: Diploma, Mays Senior High School, Goulds, Florida. For more than 30 years, Brown has worked to improve the community he was raised in and still loves today.

He has dedicated his time to the Homestead/Florida City Community Action Agency and was instrumental in organizing numerous activities to enhance the life of area residents. Among Brown's credits are the founding of the annual African Heritage Festival, the Haitian, Hispanic, African American Coalition and the Concerned Citizens Progressive Action group. For 14 years he coordinated the annual Martin Luther King Parade and festivities. He initiated programs to provide employment opportunities for Homestead/Florida City residents by inducing commitments from businesses such as the race track complex and by helping expand summer employment youth programs and voter registration.

Brown especially wanted to make a difference for the community's young people. He established the first Youth Opportunity Center in Homestead, providing an outlet where hundreds of young people receive job training and counseling. The Neighborhood Youth Corp, which he founded, provided kids with a positive outlet by working with senior citizens.

His tireless efforts also included lobbying for funding to redevelop Roby George Park and building a community center adjacent to the park. He also oversaw the development of a low-income housing project for first-time home buyers. For Brown's dedication and his efforts on behalf of the community, he has been honored by Governor Lawton Chiles, U.S. Senator Bob Graham, U.S. Representative Carrie Meek, Florida Senator Darryl Jones and Florida Representatives Larcenia Bullard, John Cosgrove and Debbie Horan.

Quote: "He served as a role for me and many of us growing up. He was a pioneer in the civil rights movement here in Florida City and I have the deepest respect for this man."

–Otis Wallace, Mayor of Florida City

Recipient of the Miami Herald 1992 Spirit of Excellence Award.