Office of the President

New School for Social Research

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In the matter of:

FCC Proposal for creation of Low Power FM Radio Service For Local Communities.

(MM Docket 99-25)

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Comments of:

Jonathan F. Fanton, President
New School University
66 W. 12th Street
New York, NY 10011

I file these comments on June 30th, with regard to the FCC's proposal for the licensing of Low Power FM radio stations (MM Docket 99-25). On behalf of New School University, I would like to offer my complete support of the LPFM proposal and endorse the benefits this would bring to community organizations and educational institutions around the country.

As radio currently stands in New York City, the financial constraints of broadcasting demand that stations adhere to the most broadly appealing formats in an effort to reach the largest possible audience. While this does serve a number of interests, it neglects the needs of the diverse local communities which make up the New York City population, and it is my belief that such needs would be well served by the creation of a body of low power community oriented stations. However, unless the interference requirements are changed, it is my understanding that the new 100 watt and 1000 watt licenses would not be offered in the New York metropolitan area. Thus, while the proposal presents a great deal of opportunity, I would also ask that the commission consider the needs of urban markets such as New York City when the licensing requirements are finalized.

Looking towards the future, it is my feeling that such low power stations would be complementary to any digital or Internet radio technologies, an example of

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which would be the possibility of concurrent electronic and traditional broadcasting. These technologies are the forerunners of all digital broadcasts, and would in no way hinder the advancement of radio technology.

Thus, I would like to express our desire and intent to apply for an LPFM license when they become available, with the intent of utilizing it as a multi-format medium, combining both Internet radio and low power broadcasting. The low power FM proposal represents a grand opportunity to bring radio back to the communities from which it sprung, and it is my hope that New School University shall be able to provide a home for such an enterprise.

Sincerely,

Jonathan F. Fanton

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