

Dear FCC,

I've been involved with community governance and development for many years. Currently I'm vice chair of the local community board and co chair of its communications committee. The following is provided to support the development of low power radio stations.

Being part of New York City, the "world's communications capital", many would presume that we have adequate communication channels for local governance and development purposes. They'd be wrong.

My community of 125,000 residents has no local TV, no local AM radio stations, no local FM radio stations, and no daily newspaper to serve our needs. Recently we've found sign that the internet, being geographically-ignorant and distance-insensitive is further damaging our communities ability to govern itself. Compare this with communities of a similar size and you'll see striking differences.

How do we govern a community under these circumstances? Word of mouth, civic groups, voice telephone, and snail mail. We do our best.

And it's not just the lack of local channels. When we do communicate with our community we must overcome the din of numerous regional TV, radio, and newspaper channels. It ain't easy.

I would like to see the FCC authorize low power radio stations that would serve the communities of my city. For example, community district 3, comprising the neighborhoods of Jackson Heights, North Corona and East Elmhurst, would find it most beneficial to have a radio station to call our own. Our population is located in a compact area of about 4 square miles, about average for NYC's 59 community districts. (Community boards have jurisdiction in community districts.)

I would like to see the FCC approve appropriately low power frequencies - maybe in the 10 range - for NYC's community districts. Several frequencies might be shared / reused by the 59 districts.

As to management and ownership, I'd propose that each community district would select a local organization to operate the station. One potential structure might be not-for-profit served by a city-wide commercial sponsorships sales organization. Limited sharing of programming between the 59 stations might also be allowed. But local control and local programming content must be required.

We need improved communication channels. Low power radio offers one way to provide this. I urge you to help our 125,000 residents build a better community through the approval of these frequencies.

Sincerely,

Thomas Lowenhaupt
Vice Chair, Community Board 3Q