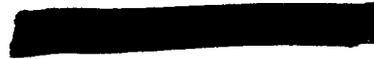




SUNSHINE PERIOD



99-25

Susan Ness
Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington DC 20554
January, 16, 2000

RECEIVED

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Commissioner Ness,

I have a vision. At its center is a community radio station located in the small suburban town in northeast New Jersey where I currently reside. This station will serve my town and as many of the surrounding towns that its 100 watts will permit it to reach. It will present a mix of music and public service programming that will serve as an antidote to the homogenized product that I seem to find on virtually every station on my radio dial. The music will range across the spectrum from rock to pop to jazz to soul to international, as well as any other genre that may suit a particular moment. Recording artists from the past, present and future, ranging in status from unknown locals to up-and-comers to established acts to superstars, will be featured. Community-oriented programs will present the local take on subjects such as politics, education, sports, health, history and the arts. The goal: Radio for the listener that's entertaining and enlightening, instead of just a platform with lowest-common-denominator, ratings-driven programming designed to cram in as many commercials as possible.

This vision was conceived shortly after I saw the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for LPFM (Docket MM 99-25) a little less than one year ago. I see it as my opportunity to start and run a radio station supported by local companies that otherwise can't afford to advertise on full-power stations. I am not looking and do not expect to compete with full-power radio stations for advertising dollars; my plan is to provide a means for local businesses to reach the folks who shop in their stores and use their services.

Now it has come to my attention that the FCC intends to vote in the very near future on a version of this proposal that will not permit commercial stations and will keep in place 2nd adjacent channel restrictions. If this is indeed the case, then obviously my vision will evaporate into thin air. So I ask you: How can I realize my vision? Is there any way I can bring this radio station to life under the restrictions currently being considered? Better yet, why can't the proposal be adjusted to include commercial stations? Non-commercial stations will only be feasible for organizations that have funding sources already in place; more than likely, these organizations will have limited agendas for the content their stations will offer.

I have no doubt that there are many others who feel as I do (perhaps you have already heard from some of them) and share my vision for the communities they live in. I'd simply like a chance to turn my vision into a reality. Please reconsider the plan you are about to vote on and revise it to include an option for commercial stations.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Tesser
74 Park Avenue
Verona, NJ 07044
(973) 857-8772
jtkc@bellatlantic.net

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