

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of)
)
Amendment of Section 76.51)
of the Commission's Rules to Include)
Newton, New Jersey, and)
Riverhead, New York in the New York,)
New York - Linden - Paterson - Newark,)
New Jersey Television Market (#1))

MM Docket No. 93-290

To: Chief, Mass Media Bureau

REPLY COMMENTS OF COMMUNITY CABLEVISION COMPANY

Community Cablevision Company ("CCC"),^{1/} doing business as Dimension Cable Services, by its attorneys, hereby files reply comments in the above-captioned proceeding.^{2/} CCC is filing these reply comments in response to the Commission's invitation to CCC in the pending Anaheim, California proceeding to address issues related to market hyphenation in large and complex markets like the New York, Boston and Los Angeles markets.^{3/}

^{1/}CCC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Times Mirror Cable Television of Orange County, Inc., a California corporation.

^{2/}CCC currently serves approximately 42,290 customers in the cities of Newport Beach, Irvine, Tustin, and Orange, the University of California, Irvine, and the Marine Corps Air Stations in Tustin and El Toro, all of which are located in Orange County, California. On May 28, 1993, CCC filed a Petition for Emergency Special Relief with the FCC seeking to exclude a number of broadcast stations, for must carry purposes, from certain communities located within the Los Angeles ADI. That Petition is pending. In re Petition of Community Cablevision Company, dba Dimension Cable Services, CSR-3865-A.

^{3/}Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in MM Docket No. 93-304, DA 93-1500 (rel. Dec. 21, 1993) at ¶ 8.

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The petitioning New York ADI stations, like the station in the Anaheim proceeding, seek redesignation primarily as a means of qualifying for must carry status in areas in and around the hyphenated market communities. Redesignation primarily for this purpose is inappropriate, however, as Cablevision Systems Corporation, Time Warner New York City Cable Group, and U.S. Cablevision Corporation demonstrate in their initial comments. Under the 1992 Cable Act, only "qualified" stations are entitled to carriage as must carry stations. A station is not qualified if it is a distant signal for copyright purposes and does not agree to indemnify cable operators for copyright liability. Had Congress intended to relieve broadcast stations of potential copyright liability in order to qualify for must carry status, it could have required wholesale revisions to Section 76.51 of the Commission's rules^{4/} or amended Section 111 of the Copyright Act.^{5/} Rather than doing so, Congress expressed its intent not to work any fundamental changes in the copyright law.^{6/} As commenters in this proceeding have urged, the Commission should not now allow stations to obtain must carry rights (and end-run the statute) through market redesignation, particularly in cases where the stations have demonstrated little, if any, local

^{4/}47 C.F.R. § 76.51.

^{5/}17 U.S.C. § 111.

^{6/}See Comments of Cablevision Systems Corporation at 5-7 ("Cablevision Comments"), citing H.R. Rep. No. 628, 102d Cong., 2d Sess. 92 (1992); Comments of Time Warner New York City Cable Group at 7-8 ("Time Warner Comments"); Comments of U.S. Cablevision Corp. at 4 ("U.S. Cablevision Comments").

connection to, or any "competitive commonality" with, the communities already included in the particular market.^{7/}

Further, Commission restraint is particularly warranted given the adverse impact caused by the forced carriage of additional stations in large markets.^{8/} In Orange County, redesignation resulting in stations being deemed "local" for copyright purposes could result in CCC being compelled to add to its system additional television stations without meaningful local ties to the communities served by CCC. Mandated carriage of such stations would further limit CCC's discretion in offering programming of interest to its subscribers and would force CCC's "at capacity" system to drop more desirable programming services. In order to carry additional broadcast stations, CCC has already been forced to reduce to part-time carriage C-SPAN, a local origination channel, The Weather Channel, and VH-1; and has had to completely drop The Movie Channel and Continuous Hits 1.

CCC also supports those commenters urging the Commission to avoid redesignation of large and complex markets like New York and Los Angeles in a way which joins non-local communities (and non-competing stations) in a market, particularly given the fact that market hyphenation significantly expands the geographic area in which stations may assert their network

^{7/}As the commenters in this proceeding have noted, the Commission refrained in its must carry order from making wholesale revisions to Section 76.51, noting that such changes "would have significant implications for copyright liability." See, e.g., Time Warner Comments at 8, U.S. Cablevision Comments at 4, quoting Must Carry Report and Order, 8 FCC Rcd 2965, 2978 (1993).

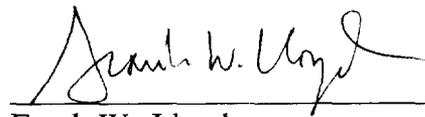
^{8/}See Time Warner Comments at 2.

nonduplication and syndicated exclusivity rights.^{9/} Rather, if the Commission feels that some relief is necessary for any of these stations, it should take less drastic steps that do not create unwarranted and unjustifiable results.^{10/}

Respectfully submitted,

COMMUNITY CABLEVISION COMPANY,
dba Dimension Cable Services

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^{9/} See Cablevision Comments at 8-9.

^{10/} See, e.g., U.S. Cablevision Comments at 8-9 (suggesting that stations seeking "local" status pursue determinations of significant viewership).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Rowena Y. Holt, do hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Reply Comments of Community Cablevision Company was served on the following by either hand delivery or first class mail, postage prepaid, this 18th day of January, 1994.


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