

informed by a representative of the Miami Rescue Mission that the station had called that organization to discuss community issues. Also, I learned from a representative of the First Assembly of God in Miramar, Florida, that the station had contacted that church to ascertain local needs. It was my opinion that the station sought to solicit a broad range of views regarding community needs and issues.

3. Following my conversation with the station, I was asked to appear on WHFT to discuss my work with Graceworks and some of the problems facing the community. I subsequently appeared two or three times before the end of 1991 as a guest on the station's interview style talk shows "Praise the Lord" and "Feedback." After each of those appearances, I received dozens of calls from people in the community who told me that they had watched the show and that it had helped them greatly. Additionally, as the result of those appearances, Graceworks experienced an increase in the number of people who enrolled in its classes after telling me that they had learned about our services by watching the station.

4. During the period 1987 through 1991, I watched the station's programming for few hours nearly every day. Two shows that I thought were particularly responsive to local needs and issues were the programs "Praise the Lord" and "Feedback," both of which featured representatives of local churches and public service organizations that addressed issues of community

concern. It is my opinion that through such programming WHFT benefitted the public by presenting various alternative solutions to community problems, and by publicizing information about free, community based services that people otherwise might not have had access to. On a personal level, the station helped to enhance my work in the community by letting people know about the services offered by Graceworks, and by opening the door for me to get involved in other community activities. I would describe the station's programming during that period was unique because no other television station in the South Florida market offered the same type of non-denominational coverage of christian concepts that WHFT made available to the community. I think that the station's programming especially benefitted the area's minority community by addressing problems of particular concern to that community, including the issues of drug and alcohol addiction, homelessness, and problems associated with low self esteem. Approximately 50% of the people enrolled in Graceworks' programs are members of a minority group, and a substantial number of them have told me that they have been positively helped by WHFT's programming.

5. I also am aware of efforts that WHFT made during the period 1987 through 1991 to serve the community other than through its broadcast programming. Specifically, I am familiar with the station's "Prayer Line," a 24 hour telephone line that was available for people to call when they were in need. At least a hundred people with whom I spoke during that period told

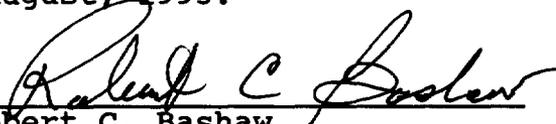
me that they had called the station's Prayer Line for help with a problem after learning about it through the station's programming. It was the general consensus of those individuals that the Prayer Line was a vital source of comfort in their time of need. During that period, the station also referred many individuals to Graceworks and other public service organizations for follow-up help after receiving such calls. For example, Faith Farm Ministries, a residential alcohol and drug treatment facility with which I am affiliated, received dozens of calls during that period from people who had contacted the station's Prayer Line in need of counseling. It was my opinion that the station provided an important community service through its activities with the Prayer Line.

6. In sum, I think that during the period 1987 through 1991 the station served as a vital source of information concerning the problems and needs of the South Florida community, and that it presented essential information about various local services available to help people deal with those problems. In this regard, no commercial television station in the area of which I am aware provided the same type of public service programming that WHFT provided. That programming was geared toward helping people achieve a better quality of life, and, in my opinion, through that programming the station provided an important community service.

SPONSORING DECLARATION

I, Robert C. Bashaw, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing testimony is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed this 1st day of August, 1993.


Robert C. Bashaw

DECLARATION OF CLEVELAND BELL III

1. My name is Cleveland Bell III. I am the executive director of the Riverside House, located at 968 NW 2nd Street, Miami, Florida, 33128. I reside at 928 NW 47th Street, Miami, Florida, 33127.

2. I am an African-American, and have been a resident of the Miami area since 1962. I am submitting this Declaration to provide the Federal Communications Commission with my testimony concerning the contributions to the community's welfare made by WHFT-TV, Miami, during its last license term (February 1, 1987 to February 1, 1992).

3. I am the Executive Director of the Riverside House, a 75 bed residential coeducational home affiliated with the Riverside United Methodist Church, which is a half-way house for men and women with alcohol and drug addiction problems before they are released again into the community. I am also a member of the Governor's Task Force for the Homeless, and a member of TARCA, a national group of Homeless advocates and of ACA, the American Correctional Association.

4. During the license term I appeared on "Feedback" at least once, in April, 1989, and on the "Praise the Lord--South Florida" show at least three times, in June, 1989, and January and November, 1990. In each instance I was interviewed for approximately 20 minutes and was able to explain what Riverside House does and the sort of help it provides for people. As part of the program we discussed the various drug and alcohol treatment facilities which

Federal Communications Commission

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Disposition: 1129.93

Signature: A. Waldner

Date: 11/21/93

were available to assist residents of the area. Our name and telephone number was regularly flashed on the screen during the interview. My appearance generated a response each time--I recall receiving several calls from parents of children who wanted help for their children. I also had a call from a state agency asking about a referral.

5. I know of the good work that the station's ministry, "His Hand Extended," does in the community feeding the helpless. When I was at the channel 45 studio, I saw a large number of people who were coming to the station for food, and was really impressed with the effort channel 45 was expending to help the less fortunate.

6. I am a regular viewer of channel 45, and channel 45 is regularly viewed in our house. I felt that channel 45's programs, particularly its programs on drug and alcohol addiction, were really excellent treatments of the problem. Racial discrimination and racial division, and a sense of isolation on the part of the African American community, are major problems in the Miami area. In this regard I was particularly impressed with the number of African-Americans and other minorities which appeared on channel 45 programming. African-Americans were (and are) particularly prominent in hosting shows, and both the hosts and guests on a number of programs seemed multi-ethnic. African-Americans and other people of color were involved in obvious leadership roles. The station seems to be making a conscious effort to appear multi-

racial and multi-cultural, and channel 45 has done a much better job in this area than any of the other area television stations.

SUPPORTING DECLARATION

I, Cleveland Bell III, hereby declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Florida and the United States of America that the forgoing "Declaration of Cleveland Bell, III," consisting of three (3) pages, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed this 4th day of August, 1993.

By: Cleveland Bell III
Cleveland Bell III

DECLARATION OF PASTOR GEORGE M. BENEBY

1. My name is Pastor George M. Beneby. I am an ordained minister, and the founder and Executive Director of Street Church Ministries, Inc. ("Street Church"), local a non-profit organization founded in 1987 to collect and distribute food and clothing to the homeless and needy in the greater Ft. Lauderdale area. My business address is 4802 Southwest 51st Street, Davie, Florida 33314. My residence address is 2816 Southwest 4th Street, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33312. I was born in Hollywood, Florida, and I have lived in the greater Ft. Lauderdale area for approximately 54 years. I am submitting this declaration to provide the Federal Communications Commission my testimony concerning the contribution to the community welfare that Television Station WHFT (Channel 45) made during the period 1986 through 1991

2. My principal connection with WHFT during that period occurred through my work with Street Church. In early December 1991, I appeared as a guest on the station's public affairs program "Praise the Lord South Florida" to discuss the homeless situation in the greater Ft. Lauderdale area and to inform viewers about the activities of Street Church. Prior to that time, I was interviewed by the station about the activities of Street Church and the various food, clothing and health needs of the area's homeless. I also am aware that the station contacted other organizations to ascertain community issues, including,

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Reporter Walsh

Date 11.29.93

for example, the Christian Fellowship Ministry and the Bridge Ministry.

3. I have been aware of WHFT's presence in the community for approximately 10 years. During the period 1986 through 1991, I watched the station's programming regularly, for approximately two hours or more on most days. Two programs that I thought were particularly responsive to local needs and issues were the interview style talk shows "Praise the Lord" and "Feedback," both of which helped to address local issues and promote the activities of local ministries and service organizations in and around the area. It is my opinion that through such programming WHFT benefitted the public by helping to make the needs and interests of the South Florida area known to people in the community, and by serving as a tremendous source of information about community resources, local emergencies, and general life management skills. In this regard, the station helped to identify referral sources and publicize information about community-based organizations like Street Church that were available to assist people in need. The station also helped to encourage public support for and participation in such organizations. The station's programming had a direct and positive impact on Street Church, which received a number of offers of assistance from people who told me they had learned about the organization and its activities through my appearances on the station. WHFT also helped to keep the community advised of upcoming devotional matters by

publicizing information about local events, guest speakers, workshops, etc. I would describe the station's programming during that period was unique, because no other TV broadcast service of which I am aware addressed public needs like WHFT did on a weekly basis.

4. I also am aware of efforts that WHFT made during the period 1986 through 1991 to serve the community other than through its broadcast programming. Specifically, I know that the station received and stored canned goods and clothing for distribution to needy families. Based on my familiarity with the station's programming and conversations that I had with other guest panelists while appearing on the station, it is my opinion that WHFT enjoyed a positive reputation in the community for public service.

SPONSORING DECLARATION

I, George M. Beneby, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing testimony is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed this 1 day of August, 1993.



George M. Beneby

DECLARATION OF GREGORY C. BROWN

1. My name is Gregory C. Brown. I am a self-employed painter and decorator, and I live at 215 SW 12th Street, Dania, Florida, 33004. I have lived in the Miami area since 1971, and I am submitting this Declaration to provide the Federal Communications Commission with my testimony concerning the contributions to the community's welfare made by WHFT-TV, Miami, during its last license term (February 1, 1987 to February 1, 1992).

2. In February 1987 I began what is now the oldest on-site program for feeding the homeless in Broward county. In 1989 I received the Junior League of Ft. Lauderdale "Outstanding Citizen Award," the first time that such an award has been given to someone who works with the homeless.

3. My ministry started with me going to Ft. Lauderdale beach every Sunday morning, and praying on the beach. Before long some of the street people hanging around the beach began to talk to me. One day I saw a man fish something out of a garbage can, shake it vigorously, and then walk away eating it. When I looked in the garbage can I saw what he was eating--the leftovers of a couple of buckets of fried chicken that were covered with maggots. I soon began feeding people on the beach, and we now feed 200 people every Sunday. Surprisingly, Sunday is the worst day for the homeless, because most food banks, etc., work only six days a week. Sunday is a day when the homeless are particularly hungry. WHFT has helped me

Federal Communications Commission

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Reporter A. Wickner

Date 11.29.93

with my ministry since its inception by donating certain foods and men's clothing.

4. I speak several languages, including Spanish and Portugese, and from 1984 through 1989 I worked as a volunteer Prayer Partner on WHFT's prayer line. For roughly two years, during 1987 and 1988, I worked as a Prayer Partner almost every day for four or five hours a day. I served as a Prayer Partner because I believe it was an important ministry and because I think I was good at it. I am a former drug addict myself. Many of the things people would tell me on the prayer line were things that I had experienced. Often callers with drug problems who called were surprised to talk to someone who wasn't just a church person, but who knew what they were going through.

5. 90 percent of the people who call the prayer line are simply lonely people who want to hear a human voice. We have many elderly in South Florida who feel isolated and unwanted and who called just for company. About 10 percent of the call were of the genuine crisis variety. We have a manual to work from with the names and telephone numbers of various governmental and social agencies, as well as nonprofit service organization to refer people for help. The problem, of course, is that with some issues, such as people who are suicidal, the call itself usually represents the crisis, and to refer someone to a mental health organization or a suicide prevention center doesn't help much if you can't deal with the crisis on the telephone. I believe that there are at least six people alive today because I spoke to them on the Prayer Line when

they were depressed and ready to commit suicide. Sometimes I would spend hours on the phone with a depressed and suicidal person. One woman, who called during the license term, called and was utterly depressed. She told me that she was going to kill herself and her two children. Because of my experience with drugs I was able to tell what she had been taking (Cocaine) and what she had been drinking. She was so surprised that I knew what she was on that she talked to me for some time and got through the crisis. She's called back since then and is now off drugs and has turned her life around.

6. We received many called from people with drug problems. With them I could share my own experience and how I turned my life around. For those who wanted help, I could refer them to a number of drug rehabilitation programs that were included in our manual. I would ask some if they wanted someone to contact them, and if they did I not only gave them the name of a treatment program in the area to contact, I called the program in the area and asked the program to contact the person as a follow-up. We also received crisis calls from, for example, women whose husbands had beat them up and were coming back, and young girls who had discovered that they were pregnant, and wanted to know what to do.

7. I have also worked as a volunteer with "His Hand Extended (HHE)." I have a great deal of experience because I worked with a Food Bank in Detroit, so I worked on soliciting donations of food for the ministry. I was also able to provide HHE with technical advice on subjects such as what foods could be kept

in the South Florida climate, how long it was safe to keep canned goods on their shelves.

8. I watch channel 45 programming on a regular basis, and particularly watch their local programming because I try to keep up on what local programs are available to help my people. I also try to network with people who organizations might be of help to my ministry, or my people. WHFT's local programming serves as a sort of directory of who's in the helping business in the Miami area. That is a real help to me. I have also seen some outstanding programming on channel 45 dealing with the problems of drug and alcohol addiction. Faith Farm, one of the largest drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs in South Florida, has done seven or eight programs dealing with drug and alcohol addiction, how people become addicted, and what signs are indicators that a person has lost control and needs help. The program includes a special section for pastors of churches on how to deal with the issue in their congregations. The series was first broadcast in 1990, and has been repeated since then. The "Praise the Lord--South Florida" is also excellent in treating local problems and needs by exploring what the problems are in the community, but also telling people where to go for help in the area if they are effected by the problem.

9. I have appeared on WHFT programming as a guest. I appeared on "Feedback," in 1989, and twice on "Praise the Lord--South Florida" during 1989. In each instance I was interviewed for roughly one-half an hour concerning how one becomes homeless and

the problems of the homeless in South Florida. On May 31, 1991 I appeared on a program produced by WHFT entitled "Homeless." The program was a half-hour program on which I and Brother Paul of Camillus House were interviewed by Harold Calvin Ray about the homeless. We discussed the lack of places for the homeless to find help in the Miami area, at that time there was no place in Broward or Dade County where homeless men could find shelter. Brother Paul and I both encouraged people to get involved in finding a solution to the problem, and pointed out that if enough people pitch in the problem would be manageable.

SIGNED,

Gregory C Brown

GREGORY C. BROWN

AUG. 4, 1993

SUPPORTING DECLARATION

I, Gregory C. Brown, hereby declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Florida and the United States of America that the forgoing "Declaration of Gregory C. Brown," consisting of five (5) pages, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed this 4 day of AUGUST 1993.

Gregory C. Brown
Gregory C. Brown

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