

HEIDI A. SHERRIE  
2644 Kendall Street, Apt #102  
Edgewater, CO 80214  
(303) 274-4320 tty only

Secretary, Federal Communication Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

February 18, 1998

In the Matter of Closed Captioning and Video  
MM Dkt. No. 95-176

I am Heidi Sherrie and I reside with my husband Timothy Sherrie in Edgewater, Colorado, in the Denver area. We are both deaf and rely on closed captioning especially during severe weathers. We feel that the area stations do us a disservice by omitting closed captioning for emergency weather or situations.

My husband and I do recall October 24, 1997 when a blizzard unexpectedly dumped a great deal of snow in most of the Denver area and the surrounding cities. The snow left many people stranded in the streets and of course, left many more homebound without any power.

The TV stations, as a rule, stopped their normal programming or made the image smaller on the screen to allow them to display information about the weather or closures of certain buildings that were affected by the storm. In turn, the stations had to omit the closed captions in order to show this information. It is the same with most of the stations. My husband was understandably furious at the lack of captions to provide vital information about the blizzard.

In my opinion, most of the open captions provided by the stations are often too brief and does not provide detailed information about the weather. We, like some deaf people, do not yet possess the latest technology that will allow the captions to go up to the top of the screen. We had to contend with the fact that the closed captions are given a lower priority in providing emergency information to the hearing impaired community.

I also see a strong need for the captioning of emergency new programming when the stations televised the news around the blizzard and the anchors giving accounts on what was happening in the areas that were affected by the storm. Not all the stations were captioned or the dialogue inside the stations were just captioned, but not occurring outside of the station. I would miss part of what was happening, like a piece of a jigsaw puzzle was missing. I would like to see the stations caption the entire emergency segment so we know what is happening in its entirety.

Again, like most of the deaf Americans, I do implore the addition of the closed captioning of emergency programming. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

  
Heidi A. Sherrie

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1102 South Congress Ave. #46-B Apt.  
Austin, TX 78704  
February 18, 1998

SECRETARY  
Federal Communication Commission  
1919 M Street NW Room 222  
Washington DC, 20554

To whom it may concern:

I am a Transitional Student at the Texas School for the Deaf in Austin, TX. I am responding to Video Programming, MM Docket No. 95-176, in the matter of closed captioning and video.

I urge the **Federal Communications Commission** to go forward in providing **ALL** emergency news programming with real-time captioning.

As a deaf person, I am in great need of emergency captioning because I am usually the last person to know what is happening with the weather. Often I fear my safety when I am unaware of what's happening in bad weather conditions. Sometimes in the effect of an emergency, I am either alone or with another deaf person who does not know what is happening. My safety in these situations is important!

Please caption our emergency news programs!

Thank you,

*Nestor Oviedo*

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DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

1102 South Congress Ave. # 45B  
Austin, TX 78704  
February 18, 1998

SECRETARY  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
1919 M STREET NW ROOM 222  
WASHINGTON DC, 20554

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Please caption our emergency news programs!

Thank you,

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DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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February 18, 1998

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1919 M Street NW Room 222  
Washington DC, 20554

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My safety in these situations is important!

Please caption our emergency news programs!

Thank you,

*Magda Barge*

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FEB 27 1998  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

1102 South Congress Ave. # 45A  
Austin, TX 78704  
February 18, 1998

Secretary  
Federal Communication Commission  
1919 M Street NW Room 222  
Washington DC, 20554

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Please caption our emergency news programs!

Thank you, Uriel Arroyo

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FEB 23 1998  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

1102 South Congress Ave. # 44B  
Austin, TX 78704  
February 18, 1998

Secretary  
Federal Communication Commission  
1919 M Street NW Room 222  
Washington DC, 20554

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Please caption our emergency news programs!

Thank you,

*Kathy Peterman*

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2/18/98

1102 South Congress Ave. # 4413  
Austin, TX 78704  
February 18, 1998

Secretary  
Federal Communication Commission  
1919 M Street NW Room 222  
Washington DC, 20554

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Please caption our emergency news programs!

Thank you,

Zameka Perkins

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Please caption our emergency news programs!

Thank you,

*Lisa Duran*

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February 19, 1998

In the Matter of Closed Captioning and Video  
Description of Video Programming, MM Dkt.NO. 95-176

Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Room 222  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary:

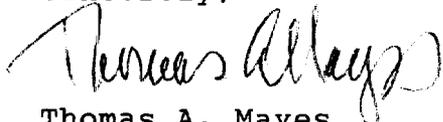
I am a retired deaf citizen living in Florida and would like to comment strongly on the need for captioning of all emergency news programming with real-time captioning.

Florida, being no stranger to hurricanes, heavy rains, thunderstorms, tornados, dangerous surf and ocean currents, is a precarious place for disabled people to live. We depend on our friends and neighbors to warn us of impending danger from the elements. The hurricane which destroyed the city of Homestead a few years ago was particular scary. Although all the local TV channels carried hurricane warnings not all were captioned. Some hearing impaired friends of ours living closer to the area were totally unaware of the coming storm as the channels they were watching did not carry captioned news at the time. I called them and offered to evacuate them to our home. As it turned out, they escaped danger when the hurricane's path changed.

I remember living in the San Fernando Valley in California in 1971 when a 6.1 earthquake shook up the area with great damage. There was a sizeable number of hearing impaired students attending California State University at Northridge at the time. We found ourselves wandering around in the streets seeking news, as captioning was in its infancy then.

I feel that our federal government has an obligation to aid and protect its disabled citizens, and with the utmost urgency am asking you to make emergency news programming mandatory for all television stations.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Mayes  
6989 Camden Court  
Margate, Florida 33063

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Arva Priola  
4102 Chris Shan Ct  
Fredericksburg, VA  
22408

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FEB 23 1997  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Room 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**MM Docket No. 95-176**

Dear Sir:

I am a late deafened adult who make use of the cochlear implant and act as a hard of hearing person. I lost my hearing in 1989 after 16 years of teaching in Prince William had to retire on disability. Before the implant I made use of American Sign Language. I have great respect for all means of communication. I am currently the Outreach Specialist for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at the disAbility Resource Center. I am a member of the Self Help for Hard of Hearing People National and Rappahannock Self Help for Hard of Hearing Chapter locally.

Our nation holds deaf and hard of hearing parents responsible for our safety of our children. I have three children and I need to know exactly what is happening. I sure do not want to lose my children because of child neglect because I could not hear a warning on TV.

I should not have to get information from my children and want to be an independent person. I do not want to have to ask my neighbors for information. I sure do not want to leave for work when there has been a tornado warning and leave my children unprotected at home. Until you have had hearing loss. People have no idea of the barriers each of us face in our own personal safety and that of our beloved family.

Emergency captioning must be effective immediately not nine years from now.

Television stations can work to get a sponsorship for the realtime. They use it as advertisements for the company.

We must fight against the use of electronic captioning as we lose live reports, live weather, and live interviews We do not know where emergency shelters are or what is recommended to protect ourselves. What about the deaf and hard of hearing that are visiting another state ?

Then the situation where you are staying in a hotel and the hotel does not provide the TV with captioning. Then the hotel has the closed caption chip in the TV and then the local stations are using electronic captioning or none at all. This happened to me in the ice storm where my family had to go to an hotel when we were without electricity in 1993.

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A good estimate of the cost of live captioning is \$100 to \$150 per hour. We have to respect the integrity of live captioning as it is focused on accurate flow of information. We get the most current information.

There is an average of 80 million caption capable TV sets have been sold since the passage of the Television Circuitry Decoder Act of 1993, which requires internal decoders in TV's with screens 13" or larger. It is projected by the year 2000 that every household will have a caption ready TV.

I will never forget during the Gulf War in the Mideast trying to understand as there was no captioning. This was a national crisis and we could be facing the same thing in the next few months. What if a missile came this way in the US ? We have to have that warning.

I think of the nuclear power plant not 20 miles away from my home. What is there was an accident ? We cannot hear the sirens going off.

Then I live in area that we have do not have a public television station except for cable. They do no captioning at all. We have to watch televisions station in Richmond that are awful about realtime captioning and then the wonderful station in Washington. That is channel four. Even that channel can make improvements.

The last Big Storm was this past week. I have a son that is a sophmore at Old Dominion University and as I got up that morning to find out what the emergency situation was in Norfolk, VA. I got nothing from the TV as they were making use of electronic captioning to air the news, the emergency situation, and the future forecast for the day.

I would like to thank you for your time and hope that we will have the opportunity to protect ourselves as people with hearing loss **now**.

Just after finishing this letter to you sir. The following happened on Feb.17, 1998. Place: Spotsylvania County, Virginia

What was it like for you tonight ? What were you doing when the tornado warning was issued by the national weather in Richmond ? Did you know there was a tornado warning?

For me I was up stairs watching television on Channel 4. There was no warning for deaf or hard of hearing people . We live in that forgotten city of Fredericksburg that has no public television station. We watch Richmond Channels 6,8,12 and then watch Channel 4, 5, 7, and 9.

Because I was watching channel 4 in Northern Virginia I got no warning of the tornado. For me it was real scary for my family to have to come and get their deaf , Mom to tell her there was a warning.

Then when I saw they were watching a different channel which was 6. The captioning was covering up the emergency warning which was displayed at the bottom of the TV. We have to do something about this. Then I was reminded of my friends with visual problems expressing their

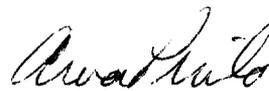
concern that these emergency announcements are not voiced in anyway for them.

I am asking our state and nation to do something about this situation.

What is so scary is just tonight I had written to the FCC and had just mention what is there was a tornado warning ?

I would like to thank you for your time and hope that we will have the opportunity to protect ourselves as people with hearing loss **now**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arva Priola".

Arva Priola

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Please caption our emergency news programs!

Thank you,



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Please caption our emergency news programs!

Thank you,

*Lina Moore*

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