

BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

In the Matter of }
 }
Amendment of Sections 0.453(d)(4) and 0.457(f) of the } Docket No.: 15-81
Commission’s Rules Concerning Electronically Stored }
Application and Licensing Data }

COMMENTS OF RIA JAIRAM

Introduction

I am an extra class amateur radio operator and have been licensed for 14 years.

Removing Historical Amateur Radio Addresses from Public Inspection

Often one wishes to keep one’s previous name and address private due to various events in their lives. In particular, they may have removed their address information from public view to escape violence, harassment or intimidation, or simply to realize their desire of a fresh start out of the public eye.

Among these are people of transgender experience who wish to keep their previous identities private, due to the data “outing” them by making their previous name easily searchable on the Internet. When such a person is “outed” this can lead to extreme emotional distress and sometimes other negative consequences such as loss of employment and even physical attack, often with deadly ramifications.

To combat such discrimination, some states have allowed transgender persons to seal their records of transition such as court ordered name changes, and birth certificate changes. This acknowledges very real safety issues. The US State Department, Social Security Administration and other agencies have also allowed transgender people to change their names on their documents without showing historical data to the public. I believe the FCC should continue in this trend to protect the safety of these people and others who may not wish to have previous addresses or names known.

The purpose of making a licensee's address data available to the FCC is so that the FCC can contact the licensee. In the case of law enforcement purposes, historical records should be made available solely for that law enforcement purpose. There is no legitimate reason whatsoever for any civilian to have access to that data.

I am therefore in full agreement with the Commission that historical amateur radio license address information should be removed from public inspection.

Respectfully Submitted

/s/

Ria Jairam

PO Box 259

Sussex, NJ 07461-0259

Telephone: +1.973.594.6275