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98-201

March 17, 1999

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Counter TW-A325  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
12<sup>th</sup> Street Lobby  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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**MAR 17 1999**

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

re: **Ex Parte Notification concerning digital  
cable carriage, definition of Grade B  
service, duopoly/LMAs and national caps**

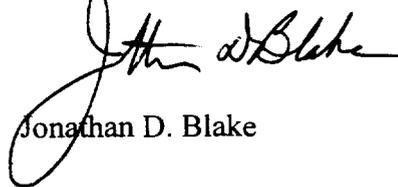
Dear Ms. Roman Salas:

Spartan Communications, Inc. ("Spartan") hereby notifies the Commission that Mr. Nick W. Evans, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Jack W. West, Executive Vice President, Ms. Nancy Dickson, Director – Community Affairs & Special Projects, Mr. Jim Conschafter, Vice President/General Manager of WSPA-TV, and the undersigned met on Monday, March 15, 1999, with Ms. Mary Beth Murphy, Legal Advisor to Chairman Kennard, Mr. Paul Misener, Senior Legal Advisor, and Ms. Helgi Walker, Legal Advisor, to Commissioner Furchtgott-Roth, Commissioner Gloria Tristani and Mr. Rick Chessen, her Legal Advisor, Ms. Jane Mago, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Powell, and Commissioner Susan Ness and Ms. Anita Walgren, her Legal Advisor. The topics were Spartan's positions with respect to (1) DTV non-must-carry issues, must-carry issues, and DTV compatibility matters, as reflected in Spartan's comments in this proceeding; (2) the Commission's decision on the definition of the Grade B signal (Spartan's position having been set forth in its comments in that proceeding); (3) the duopoly/LMA rulemaking (Spartan favors the FCC's proposals but would grant full grandfathering status to existing LMAs; they could be renewed and transferred; the undersigned did not engage in advocacy on these issues); and (4) resisting an increase in the national television ownership cap. We distributed a pamphlet describing Spartan's community service activities and summarizing some of its positions on the above issues. A copy is enclosed.

Ms. Magalie Román Salas  
March 17, 1999  
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Please direct any questions to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Jonathan D. Blake

Enclosure

cc w/o enc: Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
Ms. Mary Beth Murphy  
Mr. Paul Misener  
Ms. Helgi Walker  
Mr. Rick Chessen  
Ms. Jane Mago  
Ms. Anita Wallgren  
MM Docket Nos. 98-35; 91-221; 87-7  
CS Docket Nos. 98-120; 98-201, RM-9335, RM-9345

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*For pamphlet see docket #98-35.*