

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah,
the merciful to the believers
and non-believers in this world, the
merciful to the believers only in the next world.

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A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

FCC
Office of the Secretary
1919 M Street, Room 222 NW,
Washington, DC 20554

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MAY 27 1999
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RE Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, A Low Power Radio Service, MM Docket
No.99-25

The purpose of this letter is to strongly endorse the FCC for the proposal for a Low Power Radio service, and lend our voice to the chorus of those who see the airwaves as a great natural resource to utilize for their communities. We would also like to congratulate the FCC on taking this initiative and we are very hopeful that the result will be to maximize the use of the airwaves for the benefit of the American public.

The Association of Islamic Charitable Projects (AICP) is a non-profit organization that has its North American headquarters in Philadelphia, PA. We have been active participants and service providers within our communities across North America. The AICP participated in the National Summit on Volunteerism led by Colin Powell and the Philadelphia initiative "Let us help rebuild our community" sponsored by Mayor Rendell. In 1993, we established The Islamic Educational School, T.I.E.S., to meet the growing needs within our community for academic excellence, moral leadership, and ethical teachings for our youth. In 1995, we embarked upon a small radio service using FM devices in compliance with Part 15 of the FCC rules. Although we have found this effort rewarding we also found it frustrating due to the extremely limited range of the Part 15 devices. Therefore, we hope that this proposed LPFM would give us the opportunity to better serve and meet our community needs. We would hope that those who have operated legally would have priority in getting a LPFM license. In answer to the FCC's question on revenue, we assert that the LPFM would be an asset for local merchants along with community activists and that the areas of service could generate revenue by either underwriting or advertising.

The democratization of the airwaves is an objective that will enrich the bland formatting and bring the focus back to the area of service. The result of consolidation has brought formats that are identical in nature as you go across the country, with the casualty being local expression and concerns.

We are well aware of the interference concerns by those in the broadcast industry however this should not be used to dismiss the need for LPFM. We are confident that the FCC will be able to resolve the technical concerns of the broadcast industry and move forward with the LPFM service.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Charmaine Chabazz
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AICP / WPGA