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Elgin Public Library

214 Main Street

Elgin, IA 52141

(319) 426-5313

JUN 3 1999

FCC MAIL ROOM

Beverly Strong, Director

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Letter of Appeal

IN THE MATTER OF: REQUEST FOR REVIEW BY THE
ELGIN PUBLIC LIBRARY OF DECISION OF UNIVERSAL
SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR. FCC Docket #97-21 and 96-45

Dear Sir/Madam:

This letter is being written as an appeal to a decision concerning funding eligibility of internal connections provided by Sony Electronics as part of form 471. Attached you will find a copy of a USF funding commitment letter sent to us which shows the funding-denied decision. We request that you reconsider this "funding denied" decision.

The SLC Funding Notification Synopsis states that the "Sony Electronics" equipment was ineligible because "significant portion of this FRN includes a request for ineligible Sony equipment which is an ineligible product(s).service(s)..." We do not agree that the equipment is ineligible.

The products and installation in this application are part of the internal connections required to transmit a signal from a video conferencing room to a fiber optics telecommunications network. The equipment was chosen for funding discounts based on the wording from FCC Public Notice DA 97-1374 released July 2, 1997, ("Frequently Asked Questions on Universal Service and the Snowe-Rockefeller Amendment"). The equipment eligible for discounts was selected and itemized to fit the definition of "internal connections".

Per question 8 of the aforementioned document, "The Commission concluded that both installation and maintenance of internal connections should be eligible for discounts. Eligible schools and libraries may select both technology and provider that best meets their needs..... equipment needed to transport information within a school or library should be eligible for discounts, including routers, hubs, network file servers (including necessary software), and wireless local area networks (LANs)."

Per question 9 of the aforementioned document, "Equipment such as computers (with the exception of network file servers) and other hardware, software (with the exception of the software required for the operation of the network file servers), fax machines, modems, teacher training, and upgrades to the electrical system, and asbestos removal will not be eligible for discounts."

All equipment chosen is used for internal connections, transport, routing and control. No equipment which is classified as terminal equipment such as cameras, monitors, microphones, computers (other than the one used exclusively for control functions), VCRs, telephones or fax machines was included. We did not include necessary modifications to the electrical system, room lighting, lighting controls, furniture or acoustics. Only the labor associated with installation of eligible equipment was included.

Attached to this document you will find a listing of the equipment and installation costs associated with the eligible items. You will note that while we purchased cameras, monitors and microphones, no such ineligible items were included. The specific eligible items are included in this mailing for your review.

If you have further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Beverly A. Strong 5-25-99

Beverly Strong
Elgin Public Library Director

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