

DUCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

99-339

From: Louis Peraertz
To: Louis Peraertz
Date: 1/5/01 5:36PM
Subject: All Commission Employees Are Asked To Read This Important Document Request.

The attached Request for Production of Documents was served on the Commission this afternoon. This cover e-mail requests that all Commission employees provide the Office of General Counsel with certain information by 5 p.m. next Friday, January 12, 2001. Commission employees are asked to prepare their responses to the attached document requests and send their responses to OGC no later than 12 p.m., Tuesday, January 30. The responses must be forwarded to the Department of Justice the next day.

The request relates to a case in which Directv, Echostar and the Satellite Broadcasting and Communications Association of America have filed suit against the Commission claiming that the carry-one/carry-all requirements in the Satellite Home Viewer Improvement Act (codified at 47 U.S.C. 338) violate their First Amendment rights. The attached requests documents that may be in the possession of Commission employees. The Commission has 15 days from today to object to any requests and 30 days to file our responses to the requests. Please read the requests, determine if you have any of the requested documents, and begin to collect such documents. Another e-mail will be sent giving more details such as where in the Office of General Counsel you should send the documents you possess. By next Friday, January 12, however, attorneys from the Commission's Office of General Counsel will need to collect certain information about these requests. This information will assist attorneys from OGC and the Department of Justice determine to which requests objections should be made. When responding by next Friday, please refer to the requests by paragraph number and include a short statement concerning:

- (1) Whether you or your office has any documents that are responsive to these requests. If so, please identify: each request for which you have responsive documents; the volume of documents likely to be responsive; and the time required to retrieve the documents. If there are likely to be an extraordinarily large number of documents to any requests, please contact Louis Peraertz, of Office of General Counsel, by e-mail.
- (2) Whether any of the requested documents are likely to contain confidential or privileged documents. If so, please describe the nature of the documents.

The Office of General Counsel appreciates your cooperation.

Please send all questions about this request via e-mail to:
Louis Peraertz, Office of General Counsel

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JAN - 5 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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To: F.C.C., I wish to ask for your support for video description for T.V. and Motion Pictures. I appreciate the F.C.C. vote on this petition in July of 2000. Thank you again, Sincerely, Janice L. Squires

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JAN - 5 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

99-339

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

99-339

Dear FCC Commissioners: I was most dismayed when my mother, age 89 with Age-related Macular Degeneration, and my brother, age 62 with Stargardt Disease, informed that the leading cable, commercial TV broadcasters, the motion picture industry and the National Federation for the Blind, have petitioned you to reconsider your ruling, adopted July 21, in favor of implementing descriptive video by 2002. Both my mother and brother have enjoyed descriptive video through their Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and were anticipating this service through their TV programming. Because both of them have great difficulty in reading the written word, they depend on TV news and current events program to remain active citizens in this great representative system of government of ours. Both were also looking forward to the opportunity to enjoy popular TV programs with their families.

I urge you to deny the industry petitions to delay your order. The descriptive video services would enable all low-vision persons to more fully participate in society. Thank you for your consideration.
 Patricia Roberts 1282 Ranchview Rd Helena MT 59602-9333 dumbcat9@imime.net 406.458.6479

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 JAN - 5 2001
 FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

_____ 0

From: "Ernie" <ejonessr@bmi.net>
To: <access@fcc.gov>
Date: Mon, Nov 6, 2000 2:20 PM
Subject: In favor of FcCC's ruling last July

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

To Whom it may concern,

I am in favor of >>Docket No. 99-339, which is to provide descriptive help for movies on tv by 2002. Being blind it is hard to keep up with the theme and thoughts when much goes by with only music or silence. This help would be of great help to me and others who can't see the screen. I hope this FCC ruling holds fast.

Sincerely,
Ernest Jones
1186 Lawson Lane
Walla Walla, WA 99362
509 529 9252
ejonessr@bmi.net

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NOV 5 2001
COMMUNICATIONS COMPLEX
WASHINGTON, DC 20541



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

From: <Schurisa@aol.com>
To: <info@acb.org>, <access@fcc.gov>
Date: Mon, Nov 6, 2000 1:31 PM
Subject: video description

3619 SW 30th St. Terr.
Topeka, KS 66614-2803
Nov. 6, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Secretary:

I was the Director of Services for the Blind for the State of Kansas from 1976 to 1997, so I understand the significance of providing video description for television programming if such is to be meaningfully accessible to persons who are blind.

I thank the Commissioners of the FCC for voting to require this information service to people who are blind and visually impaired.

I believe it is critical for any person who cannot see the television screen to have an alternative means for knowing what is happening on the screen. Video description provides such an alternative. Therefore, my position is in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description. These petitioners have not provided any new information that was not already known when the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling. I urge the ruling and decision be allowed to stand.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Schutz, Ph.D.

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JUN -5 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Richard A. Schutz, Ph.D.

Secretary

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Mrs. Kathleen

L. Maroney
 1351 S. Edinburgh Dr.
 Loveland, CO 80537
 November 3, 2000

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NOV - 5 2000

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Magalie Salas, Secretary
 The Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th street, SW
 Washington, DC 20554

99-339

Dear Ms. Salas:

As the wife of a person who is totally blind and the sister of two who have low-vision, I would like to let you know how important it is to me that you do not reverse your decision mandating video description for television programming for people with visual impairments. I really appreciate the fact that you ruled to require television networks to provide video descriptions. Please don't allow the television, cable, and motion picture industry to change your opinion. If your decision was right it the first place, it still is.

Closed captioning is available for people with hearing impairments, and I'm sure that you realize that people with visual disabilities need video descriptions just as much. I try my best to describe what is happening during television shows and movies, but during fast or technical scenes, this is an almost impossible task. My husband is very appreciative of what I am able to do, but he knows that he is missing some things that descriptive video could provide. This saddens me.

A survey showed that blindness was the disability that people feared the most. Shouldn't we do our best to provide any consideration and help for people with visual disabilities? Blindness is a very difficult condition to experience, and descriptive video is a positive thing that could provide so much benefit and joy to people with visual disabilities.

I am submitting these comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description. Please consider this an official filing for Docket No. 99-339. I am imploring you to vote not only with your mind but with your heart. Please don't be persuaded to do something that you know is not right by reversing your decision. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,


 Kathleen L. Maroney

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

From: Edie Lauderback <elauderback@yahoo.com>
To: <access@fcc.gov>, <info@acb.org>
Date: Mon, Nov 6, 2000 12:45 PM
Subject: Docket No. 99-339

I am submitting comments "IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION".

I was thrilled to heard that the Commissioners of the FCC had voted to require the networks to begin providing video description of the key visual elements of television programming for the blind and visually impaired viewers.

I have a friend who is visually impaired, so i realize the importance of this ruling.

I am, therefore in favor and support of Docket No. 99-339 and hope that the FCC will not reconsider their July ruling.

Sincerely,

Edith Lauderback
Elauderback@Yahoo.com

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NOV - 5 2001

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

November 2, 2000

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JAN - 5 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

Magalie Salsa, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554



Magalie Salsa, Secretary

Dear Ms. Salsa:

This letter is being submitted as an official filing in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description. The official docket number is 99-339.

On behalf of Disabled Resource Services, I would like to strongly urge you not to reverse your decision to require television networks to provide video description for people with visual disabilities. As a person who is totally blind myself, descriptive video is invaluable to me. I have experienced the same movie first without descriptive video and then with it, and I was amazed at how much I was missing. I am sure that when you first approved descriptive videos on commercial and cable television, you did so to make these broadcasts more accessible to people with visual disabilities. Therefore, it is imperative that you continue your efforts to promote accessibility for all viewers.

There are some movies that have very little dialogue which makes it even more difficult to understand what is going on. There are also facial expressions, gestures, and action scenes that a person without sight misses if they do not have the benefit of descriptive video.

There are approximately 4.3 million citizens in the United States that have visual disabilities. This is a significant number of people who could benefit from this extremely important and much needed service. As the population continues to age, the percentage of people with visual disabilities who could benefit from descriptive videos will continue to increase.

I understand the petitioners who want you to reconsider your decision have not submitted any new information that was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling. I would like to commend the FCC for voting for descriptive videos on

the cable and television networks. Please continue supporting this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Maroney
Loveland Branch Manager

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Mr. Dave McDanal
Northern Colorado Cross Disability Coalition
Fort Collins, Colorado
November 6, 2000

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JAN - 5 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Magalie Salsa, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Salsa:

This letter is being submitted as an official filing in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description. The official docket number is 99-339.

As a member of the Northern Colorado Cross Disabilities Coalition, I urge you not to reverse your decision to require television networks to provide video description for people with visual disabilities. I work with many people who are blind or visually impaired who use descriptive video. Descriptive video makes a huge difference to all of these people.

Imagine how difficult it is following a program without descriptive videos. You miss so much content, it is hardly worth the effort. By running programming with descriptive videos, you make television much more accessible to the four and a half million people who have visual disabilities. Please continue these efforts. They are much needed!

It is my understanding that no new information was submitted by the petitioners that wasn't previously known. I would like to thank the FCC for your support of descriptive videos. Please do not reverse your decision.

Sincerely,

Dave McDanal
Northern Colorado Cross Disability Coalition



From: Jeff Moyer <moyer@jeffmoyer.com>
To: <access@fcc.gov>
Date: Mon, Nov 6, 2000 11:58 AM
Subject: In Opposition to Petitioners

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

To: FCC
From: Jeff Moyer
Re: In Opposition to Petitioners for Reconsideration of the Reported Order
on Video Description Docket No. 99-339
Date: November 6, 2000

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JAN - 5 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS SECTION

First of all, thank you for your historic action that promises to provide audio description for network television programming. This is a long overdue and seriously needed area of equal access and you are to be commended for your courageous leadership.

I have been losing my vision since I was a child. During the many years when I had useful vision that was limited, I would have to ask my family what happened when fast action or subtle gestures led to laughter or shifts in the drama that I did not understand. Now, however, as a blind person I find it impossible to enjoy television without constant reliance on my wife's good nature to provide running commentary on visual elements. When I can find videos with audio description, I am delighted the titles are few and availability scant. Real time television access is equivalent to the deaf community's receipt of captioned television, which is now commonplace. I realize that there has been opposition to your action, but no new information was therein provided. You have done the right thing and must now stay the course. Thank you for your actions in the public good.

As a consultant on access, I am constantly working to open new forms of access, including audio description to channels of information in public places such as museums. Television itself is certainly a rightful medium for this access for the tens of millions of Americans with limited vision.

CC: <info@acb.org>

From: <Chastain32@aol.com>
To: <access@fcc.gov>, <info@acb.org>
Date: Mon, Nov 6, 2000 11:44 AM
Subject: Docket No.99-339

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION

Thank you for your courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired.

The video description is such a wonderful help for the blind and visually impaired when it comes to understanding and enjoying TV.

To my knowledge the petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling.

Thank You,
Teresa Chastain

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JAN - 5 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

From: "Vicky Prahin" <vprahin@attglobal.net>
To: <access@fcc.gov>
Date: Mon, Nov 6, 2000 9:15 AM
Subject: Docket No. 99-339

I applaud the FCC for the supportive vote in July to provide access through audio description for the blind and visually impaired. Closed captioning has been available for a long time now for the hearing-impaired and deaf public, and the technology is certainly available to make television more accessible and enjoyable for those of us who cannot see the screen.

I understand that some networks and associates are now asking for reconsideration, dragging their feet, hoping to put off audio description. They already have until April 2002 to get things in place.

I sincerely hope that the FCC will stand behind its original decision and enforce this; why must we continue to be second-class citizens? I and my blind and visually impaired friends and colleagues pay taxes, own property, vote, and otherwise practice our civil rights, and it makes no sense that entertainment should be so elusive. Here in Columbus, Ohio, we have audio description available for movies in theaters, plays, ballet, and opera, and it is delightful to know at all times what is happening on-screen or -stage just as the rest of the audience does.

Imagine watching a modern movie, drama, or sit-com and having no idea what the action is, why the studio audience is laughing, or how the set affects the story. It really detracts from the pleasure of the experience.

Please continue to give your support!

Vicky Prahin
The Hadley School for the Blind
Vicky Prahin
The Hadley School for the Blind

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JAN - 5 2001
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY



From: Barry Vaughn <barry.vaughn@wcom.com>
To: <access@fcc.gov>
Date: Mon, Nov 6, 2000 7:41 AM

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear FCC,

This letter is in regard to "IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION".

My greatest appreciation for the FCC's July vote on Docket No. 99-339 requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired.

I can remember the first time I went into a movie theater and was able to watch a movie for the first time without having to ask what was happening. It was a great feeling to know I was enjoying the movie just as if I could see the screen.

I can not wait until April 2002 when I can watch TV and understand the visual aspects of the show. When you have to wait for an explanation from a family member or a friend the effects are sometimes lost as they are busy following the events on the screen themselves.

The petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling. I strongly urge the FCC to follow through with the ruling.

Sincerely,

Barry Vaughn

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NOV - 5 2001

COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20541

From: <NaplesParkInn@aol.com>
To: <access@fcc.gov>
Date: Sun, Nov 5, 2000 10:02 PM
Subject: Re. Video Description

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the FCC Commissioners for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired. This docket No. 99-339 is crucial to the Blind and visually impaired so that no backstepping will occur to stop this process and will have the year 2002 give us this wonderful service.

Both my husband and I are blind and visually impaired and know as well as have experienced the joy of understanding a complete tv program as well as a movie and theater production.

Please allow this process to be completed without delay. Thank you for your contribution. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mazza

CC: <info@acb.org>

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JAN - 5 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

[Handwritten signature]

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

From: Paula <pursha@valint.net>
To: <access@fcc.gov>, <info@acb.org>
Date: Sun, Nov 5, 2000 9:08 PM
Subject: Docket No. 99-339

I am submitting comments "In Opposition to Petitioners for Reconsideration of the Reported Order on Video Description".

I would like to thank the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the network to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired.

I am visually impaired and it is very important for me or anyone with an visual impairment to have an alternate means for knowing what's happening on the television. I am looking forward to turning my TV on in April, 2002 and enjoy shows with my family and use the video description to help me understand the visual aspects of the programing.

The petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached it's decision and issue the ruling.

Thank you.

Paula Partlow
1320 Pleasant Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Docket No. 99-339

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JAN - 5 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Paula Partlow 

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JAN - 5 2001

Tom Turner

Office of Consumer Affairs & Communications
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

5062 Forest Ave.

Bedford, PA 15522

November 5, 2000

Magalie Sales, Secretary

The Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20554

99-339

I would like to take this time to thank the FCC for its courageous vote requiring networks to provide important information to people who are visually impaired like me. I find that described video has really been a god send to me when I rent a video free of charge from the Library Of Congress. I would hope that you stand on your vote that you made on July 21st. This would mean as much to me as closed captioning means to the deaf. I find that when I try to spend time with my family watching TV some one has to describe what is going on the screen since I can only partially see the screen. I would like to conclude that the people petitioning to stop the described video have not provided any new information that was not already known at the time you made your courageous vote.

Respectfully, Yours;

Tom Turner

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From: <LHar007@aol.com>
To: <access@fcc.gov>, <info@acb.org>
Date: Sun, Nov 5, 2000 6:14 PM
Subject: (no subject)

To whom it may concern:
I would like to express my appreciation to the Commissioners fo the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind, and visually impaired. As a blind person, it is important for myself, and all visually impaired people who cannot see the screen to have this alternate means (i.e, video description). In respect to Docket No. 99-339, I would like to voice my opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported on video description. Thank you..... Respectively Submitted,

JoAnne Taylor (per Lewis Harrell)

1616 Summit St

Springfield, Ohio

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JAN - 5 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

[Handwritten signature]

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Mr. David R. Nanney
 8810 Sigrid Road
 Randallstown, MD 21133
 Phone: Home (410) 655-3884

November 1, 2000

Ms. Magalie Salas, Secretary
 The Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, SW
 Washington, DC 20554

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JAN - 5 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas,

It was with great appreciation to the Commissioners of the FCC for their positive action for the blind and visually impaired community that I learned of the vital July 21, 2000, ruling in favor of requiring the networks to begin providing audio discription by April 2002. Television is such an integral part of home information, education and entertainment and for too long, the blind and visually impaired community has been excluded from what has become basic to American life. Audio description allows a blind member of a family to enjoy programming with the family and not either be excluded or have to have someone try to explain minute-by-minute what is happening on the screen. This becomes difficult for all members of the family, since they are talking through dialogue to try to explain what is happening. It was, therefore, with dismay that I have now learned of those petitioning to reconsider the order to have audio description in place by April 2002. This letter is in extreme opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

When you must live in a world without sight, it is vital to be able to have audio enhancement to be able to understand plots, backgrounds, the demeanour of the characters in a story, action happening without dialog, information being pointed to on the screen—the "incidentals" that make a program make sense. I enjoy the current PBS audio enhanced shows and the movies which are audio enhanced on TV and the ones I order from the Library for the Blind. The audio enhancement makes *the* difference between enjoying a movie or giving up in frustration and retreating to another room—something that makes the entire family unhappy. However, try as they do, family members do not know what's coming next to describe, cannot successfully talk over and around the dialog and are not schooled in description the way the professional audio describers are.

I challenge those petitioning against audio enhancement to "watch" a few shows and movies with the screen black to get a glimmer of appreciation for the challenge and frustration we feel a thousand fold trying to "watch" shows, movies, sporting events (where there is lots of "color" but what's going on in the game?) the news, bulletins coming across the screen, etc., etc. etc.

Please maintain your firm position on this ruling to enable the blind community to benefit from the important information, education and entertainment device we have sitting in our homes as much as the sighted members of the community. This step will be a vital role in improving the quality of live for the blind and visually impaired.

Very truly yours,

David R. Nanney

David R. Nanney 
 Director

From: "Robby Barnes" <robby_barnes@hotmail.com>
To: <access@fcc.gov>
Date: Wed, Nov 8, 2000 12:12 AM
Subject: Re: Official Docket No. 99-339, Comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Robert Barnes
P.O. Box 17138
Seattle, WA 98107

November 7, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Official Docket No. 99-339,
Comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description

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JAN - 5 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

Dear FCC commissioners:

I have been severely visually impaired all my life. I have a great deal of difficulty seeing displays on a TV screen. If I do not know what visual images are being presented, it is much more difficult for me to follow the presentations. I would like to express my appreciation for your July ruling requiring television networks to begin providing video descriptions of the key visual elements in television programming starting in April, 2002.

Video description makes it possible for me to enjoy and understand my favorite films, plays and other programs. Although I am able to obtain some films with video description from the library, they are few and far between, and do not generally include the high quality material I am most interested in. I therefore have been looking forward to April, 2002, when I could simply turn on my television set and utilize the video descriptions to understand the visual aspects of the programming.

I have spoken to many other blind and visually impaired people who are similarly excited about the opportunities that video description opens up for us.

I understand that you have received petitions asking you to reconsider your ruling. However, I urge you to take into account that these petitions do not provide any new information which was unknown to you at the time of your decision. I hope you will not disappoint those of us who have been looking forward to more fully participating in the cultural life of our country.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Barnes



From: "S. Kashdan" <s_kashdan@hotmail.com>
To: <access@fcc.gov>
Date: Wed, Nov 8, 2000 12:09 AM
Subject: Re: Official Docket No. 99-339, Comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description

DOCKET FILE COPY ON FILE

Sylvie Kashdan
1707 N.W. 58th St. #3
Seattle, WA 98107

November 7, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Official Docket No. 99-339,
Comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description

RECEIVED
NOV 15 2001
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

Dear FCC commissioners:

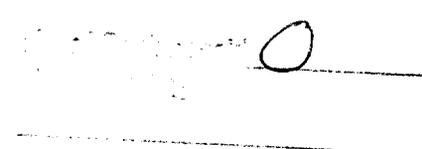
I would like to express my appreciation for your July ruling requiring television networks to begin providing video descriptions of the key visual elements in television programming starting in April, 2002. I am a blind person who lost vision in mid life. I very much miss being able to enjoy the visual aspects of quality films, plays scientific, arts and news programs because of my vision loss. If I do not know what visual images are being presented, it is much more difficult for me to follow the presentations. Video description makes it possible for me to enjoy and understand my favorite films, plays and other programs again. Although I am able to obtain some films with video description from the library, they are few and far between, and do not generally include the high quality material I am most interested in. I therefore have been looking forward to April, 2002, when I could simply turn on my television set and utilize the video descriptions to understand the visual aspects of the programming.

I have spoken to many other blind and visually impaired people who are similarly excited about the opportunities that video description opens up for us.

I understand that you have received petitions asking you to reconsider your ruling. However, I urge you to take into account that these petitions do not provide any new information which was unknown to you at the time of your decision. I hope you will not disappoint those of us who have been looking forward to more fully participating in the cultural life of our country.

Sincerely yours,

Sylvie Kashdan



From: "judy" <jsterlin@suffolk.lib.ny.us>
To: <access@fcc.gov>
Date: Wed, Nov 8, 2000 1:34 AM
Subject: Fw: opposition to petitions of reconsideration

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-----Original Message-----

From: judy <jsterlin@suffolk.lib.ny.us>
 Date: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 1:19 AM
 Subject: Fw: opposition to petitions of reconsideration

access@fcc.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: judy <jsterlin@suffolk.lib.ny.us>
 To: access@fcc.gov <access@fcc.gov>
 Date: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 12:31 AM
 Subject: opposition to petitions of reconsideration

Judith Sterling

17 Grove Place

Babylon, NY 11702

Magaline Salas, Secretary

Federal Communication Commission

445 12th St. SW

Washington D. C., 20554

Dear Magline Salas,

I am writing to you in regards to The Federal Communications Commission's ruling to require television stations to provide descriptive narration as of April 2002. Docket No.: 99-3394.

First, I would like to congratulate the Commission on making such a decision, and thank everyone who was responsible for making such a ruling. I am a blind woman that lives in Babylon, New York, and I for one really appreciate having had the opportunity to experience descriptive narration on the Public Broadcasting Station and on some of the local cable programs. I have also had the great fortune to have been able to have had access to some of the Described Videos produced by Descriptive Video Service through our Talking Book Library In Suffolk. As well as the experience of having gone to a Broadway play and being a recipient of a described service. I can not tell you how much pleasure I have gotten out of this type of secondary broadcasting. For me I do not need to view television with another person, giving me the complete access to unspoken information, and allowing me independence, and dignity, which I deserve. I do not have to feel embarrassed when disturbed movie goes shhh my friend or family member as I ask questions, and they respond back in hushed tones about pertinent described plot information. I would find this extremely helpful when viewing dance productions, dramas, and stories, as well as instructional types of shows, for example, cooking, or "how to do" programming, or exercise programs to name just a few. Plus I speak for younger people and how it plays an important part of socialization and assimilation in our society in regards to learning about facial gestures, and body language, something that

99-339

JAN - 5 2001

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a young person with out vision may not always be aware of or understand, but hearing it in its content will help to provide understanding. Another point to consider is that when a friend sits with me and tries to describe what is going on on it is not always an easy task especially when the particular film contains alot of action, and the person is viewing things for the first time. Sometimes things can happen so quickly it is hard for a person to visually digest and then interpret everything at once, and in order to do justice to the film and me the listener of the work, a describer may need extra time viewing the film before hand. Described naration does this. It is thought out and planned. The describers are well prepared with Information important to the plot seemingly to best reflect the intentions of the director. For me descriptive narration makes the story, or plot of a story come alive. It helps the mind to creat pictures similar to the experience one gets when reading a book filled with fasinating details. The discription always accesses information and the ability to experience the expression of affect the director is trying to creat in his production of a film, a work of art. If color and design are not important to people in general, why do we give awards for such things? Now imagine how it would be if we as a society lived in a world of gray, without detail. I would imagine most people would be glum, constantly looking and hoping for the sunshine to appear. Descriptive narration is that ray of sunshine for me. It means that I do not have to guess about those silent pauses between dialogue where action occurs on a set. It helps me to sometimes creat a mood and understanding that may not be there unless it was described.

Once again I thank you for your ruling and I look forward to such a secondary broadcasting in the not so distant future.

Sincerely,

Judith Sterling

President of the American Council of the Blind of Suffolk County, Long Island

From: Silas Johnson <sjohnson@starcenter.tn.org>
To: "access@fcc.gov" <access@fcc.gov>
Date: Tue, Nov 14, 2000 5:52 PM
Subject: Docket No. 99-339

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The petitions that have been filed by a number of television, cable and motion picture industry associations regarding the proposed delay of the implementation of the subject docket No. 99-339 are absolutely preposterous.

There should be NO FURTHER DELAY in delivering to American Citizens who are blind the same services that have been delivered to the Deaf community for many years.

I strongly believe that this accommodation should go forward as planned. Please note that my comments are in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

"A successful man is one who can build a firm foundation with the bricks that others throw at him."

-- David Brinkley

Silas Johnson
Technology Services Coordinator
The STAR Center
<http://www.starcenter.tn.org>

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