

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

201 Orr Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15241
December 17, 2001

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room 8-B201
Washington, DC 20554

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DEC 27 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

01-276

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to urge the FCC to approve WQED Pittsburgh's petition to dereserve Channel 16, WQEX, so that it can be sold to Diane Sutter, a broadcaster who knows our community and will serve it well. The proceeds from the sale will be used to retire WQED's debt, to complete the conversion of WQED to a digital facility as required by the FCC, and to invest in programming and other new technologies.

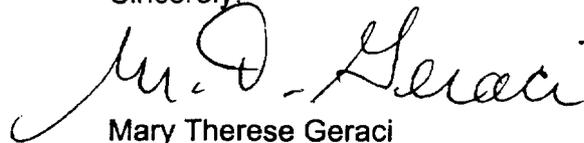
Although it has made great strides in putting its fiscal house in order, WQED continues to experience severe financial distress. This is due in part to the shrinking of the region's corporate donor base, and a steady decline in population, which has permanently undermined the regions' ability to support two noncommercial stations.

WQED's opposition claims to have a broad base of community support, but they do not represent the views of the majority of the region's citizens.

Dereservation of Channel 16 will make possible a stronger WQED as a voice for this community so that it can meet the needs of this region well into the 21st century. With the FCC's grant of WQED's petition and approval of the sale of Channel 16, we will have a financially solid WQED, not one that would lack the resources to achieve the excellence it strives for.

I strongly urge you to act favorably. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Mary Therese Geraci

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LISTABUDE

From: "MCMAHON, Kevin" <mcmahon@pgharts.org>
To: "mpowell@fcc.gov" <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: Mon, Dec 17, 2001 1:32 PM
Subject: Dereservation of WQEX

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December 17, 2001

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room 8-B201
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Michael,

You may remember that we have met once or twice when I was working at the Kennedy Center in Washington. I am now in Pittsburgh heading The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust-Pittsburgh's performing arts center.

01-276

George Miles of WQED, Pittsburgh's public television station, has been seeking permission to sell its second local station to a for profit group in an effort to bolster its financial position and allow the second station to be put into active use to serve greater Pittsburgh.

Apparently this has been a long process but one that is coming up for review this week.

I am writing in support of the sale and hope that this matter will be finally resolved.

Thanks for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if I may be of any assistance.

Best Wishes,

J. Kevin McMahon

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December 17, 2001

Chairman Michael K. Powell

Federal Communications Commission

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Washington, DC 20554

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DEC 27 2001

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

01-276

Dear Michael,

You may remember that we have met once or twice when I was working at the Kennedy Center in Washington. I am now in Pittsburgh heading The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust-Pittsburgh's performing arts center.

George Miles of WQED, Pittsburgh's public television station, has been seeking permission to sell its second local station to a for profit group in an effort to bolster its financial position and allow the second station to be put into active use to serve greater Pittsburgh.

Apparently this has been a long process but one that is coming up for review this week.

I am writing in support of the sale and hope that this matter will be finally resolved.

Thanks for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if I may be of any assistance.

Best Wishes,

J. Kevin McMahon

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From: nancy ott <nott+@transarc.com>
To: <FCC-comments@save16.org>, <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>, <msalas@fcc.gov>, <slerman@DOCKETFILE COPY ORIGINAL>, <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>, <jmstarr@cipbonline.org>
Date: Mon, Dec 17, 2001 10:26 AM
Subject: WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX educational license

Magalie Roman Salas
 Office of the Secretary,
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, SW
 Washington, DC 20554
 re: MM Docket No. 01-276

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Commission members,

I am writing to ask you to NOT approve the commercialization and subsequent sale of the educational license for WQEX Pittsburgh. It should be kept as a public broadcasting station. Regardless of how it's classified, competing applications should have an equal chance in any reissuance or reassignment of WQEX's license. This will enable the people of southwestern Pennsylvania to receive the best possible broadcasting.

Frankly, I think that WQED has failed in important areas of its mission. While I appreciate its childrens programming and PBS feed, WQED has largely neglected the other parts of its audience. Its programming seems to be chiefly aimed at older, affluent people who are stuck in an earlier era. The constant round of "Doo-Wop" music specials and Lawrence Welk show reruns do not exactly serve the general viewing public.

While it was broadcasting as an independent station, WQEX carried a more diverse mix of educational and entertainment programming and had a much stronger community orientation than WQED. We Pittsburghers need a truly public television station, not more commercial stations! I supported WQEX with my contributions in the past and will do so in the future if the station ever goes independent again.

Thanks for considering my input. I hope that you will decide to deny WQED's application to convert and sell the WQEX license.

Sincerely,

Nancy Marie Ott
 117 West 8th Street
 Pittsburgh, PA 15215
 412-784-0254

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I support the FCC to authorize WQED to sell channel WQEX.
It would help WQED to get out of debt.
A. Barbus
Pittsburgh

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To: <FCC-comments@save16.org>, <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>, <msalas@fcc.gov>, <slerman@lsl-law.com>, <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>, <jmstarr@cipbonline.org>
Date: Sun, Dec 16, 2001 4:21 PM
Subject: WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX educational license

Magalie Roman Salas
 Office of the Secretary,
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, SW
 Washington, DC 20554
 re: MM Docket No. 01-276

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Commission members,
 Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license. I support keeping Channel 16 a public broadcasting station. However, irrespective of its classification, any reissuance or reassignment of WQEX's license should be open to competing applications to ensure the citizens of southwestern Pennsylvania receive the best possible broadcasting. Additional comments:

When I was a high school student in the 50's I volunteered at WQED, so I have a very personal interest in Educational Television. When I could afford it I was a member, but I have always been a viewer. The present management of public television in Pittsburgh is like the captain of a ship that is sailing his ship onto the rocks to sink it for the insurance. Nothing short of taking command out of their hands will save the ship. They have a single minded determination to destroy WQED and everything they do is a means to that end.

The people of this area support Public Television and they have paid for it. WQEX belongs to us and not to the people who are trying to destroy it for their profit. I hope you will take it out of their hands and save it for the people who truly own it. Thank you for your attention to this matter

Sincerely Yours,
 Patrick J. Prince
 3592 Brighton Road apt # 1
 Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212
 (412) 761 - 8574

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 LISA D O E

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December 17, 2001

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Room 8-B201
Washington, DC 20554

01-276

Dear Mr. Powell :

As a lifelong resident of the Pittsburgh area, I encourage you to approve the petition to dereserve WQEX so that it can operate as a commercial station in this market.

Although it has made great strides in putting its fiscal house in order, WQED continues to experience severe financial distress. This is due in part to the shrinking of the region's corporate donor base and a steady decline in population, which has permanently undermined the region's ability to support two noncommercial stations.

Dereservation of Channel 16 will make possible a stronger WQED as a voice for this community so that it can meet the needs of this region well into the 21st century. With the FCC's grant of WQED's petition and approval of the sale of Channel 16, one strong noncommercial station in Pittsburgh will replace its current pair of weak stations.

I strongly urge you to act favorably. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Whitlinger
1034 Osage Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

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From: "Edith Benzinger" <benzinger@carlow.edu>
To: <jmstarr@cipbonline.org>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <msalas@fcc.gov>, <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>, <slerman@lsl-law.com>
Date: Sat, Dec 15, 2001 12:13 PM
Subject: Opposing Sale of WQEX

My family is strongly opposed to the sale of Channel 16, WQEX. We think the actions of WQED are unconscionable in attempting to profit from the sale of this channel. As a public channel, it is not private profit which can be sold to subsidize the mismanagement of WQED and the six-figure salaries--the outright profiteering--of WQED executives.

Edith M. Benzinger
 G. Richard Benzinger, Jr.

01-276

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From: "Dorothy P. King" <rjk-dpk@att.net>
To: <FCC-comments@save16.org>, <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>, <msalas@fcc.gov>, <slerman@lsl-law.com>, <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>, <jmstarr@cipbonline.org>
Date: Sun, Dec 16, 2001 10:52 AM
Subject: WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX educational license

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Magalie Roman Salas:
 Office of the Secretary,
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, SW
 Washington, DC 20554

re: MM Docket No. 01-276
 Dear Commission members,

Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license. I support keeping Channel 16 a public broadcasting station. However, irrespective of its classification, any reissuance or reassignment of WQEX's license should be open to competing applications to ensure the citizens of southwestern Pennsylvania receive the best possible broadcasting.

The management and the Board of Directors of WQED/WQEX have been betraying the citizens of the Pittsburgh Area for many years.

Dorothy P. King
 2337 Marbury Road
 Pittsburgh PA 15221

rjk-dpk@att.net

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From: Elliot Newman <elliottn@earthlink.net>
To: <FCC-comments@save16.org>, <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>
 <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>, <msalas@fcc.gov>, <slerman@lsl-law.com>, <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>, <jmstarr@cipbonline.org>
Date: Sun, Dec 16, 2001 3:27 PM
Subject: WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX educational license

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Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary,
Federal
 Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC
 20554<p> re: MM Docket No. 01-276</p><p>Dear Commission
 members,</p><p>Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of
 WQEX's educational license. I support keeping Channel 16 a public
 broadcasting station. However, irrespective of its classification, any
 reissuance or reassignment of WQEX's license should be open to competing
 applications to ensure the citizens of southwestern Pennsylvania receive
 the best possible broadcasting.

Elliot Newman
 79 North Jackson Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15202

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From: James Christenson <jacpe@jacpe.com>
To: <FCC-comments@save16.org>, <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>, <msalas@fcc.gov>, <slerman@isl-law.com>, <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>, <jmstarr@cipbonline.org>
Date: Sun, Dec 16, 2001 3:28 PM
Subject: WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX educational license

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Magalie Roman Salas
 Office of the Secretary,
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street,
 Washington, DC 20554
 re: MM Docket No. 01-276
 Dear Commission members,
 Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license. I support keeping Channel 16 a public broadcasting station. However, irrespective of its classification, any reissuance or reassignment of WQEX's license should be open to competing applications to ensure the citizens of southwestern Pennsylvania receive the best possible broadcasting.
Additional comments:

01-276

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When WQEX operated separately, I had access to a number of programs of vital interest to me. These are not available on cable or private stations. Because WQEX apparently carried its own budget, I resent its highhanded reduction to a clone of WQED.

Keeping WQEX public raises the possibility that others like me can once again have a full spectrum of public programs, not available elsewhere.

Sincerely,

James A. Christenson

--
 James A. Christenson, P.E.
 Christenson Consultants, Inc.
 1123 Glencoe Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15220
 412/921-0115 Fax: 412/921-3108
 (Call before using fax.)
 jacpe@jacpe.com
 http://www.jacpe.com

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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01-274

Dear :

I am writing to encourage you to approve WQED Pittsburgh's petition to dereserve WQEX, Channel 16, so that it can operate as a commercial station.

The region's viewers no longer need to rely on noncommercial television for educational programming. Cable television, direct broadcast satellite, the Internet, videotapes, DVDs, and computers each offer an alternative means of learning both at home and in the classroom.

Given these alternative sources, the region's educational programming needs can be well served by one noncommercial television station - a stronger WQED.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope that you vote in favor of WQED's petition.

Sincerely,

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Dear :

I am writing to urge the FCC to approve WQED Pittsburgh's petition to dereserve Channel 16, WQEX, so that it can be sold to Diane Sutter, a broadcaster who knows our community and will serve it well.

The proceeds from the sale will be used to retire WQED's debt, to complete the conversion of WQED to a digital facility as required by the FCC, and to invest in programming and other new technologies, which will enable WQED to become a leading regional public multimedia enterprise.

From: Devin P Browne <devinbrowne@yahoo.com>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: Fri, Dec 14, 2001 2:30 PM
Subject: SALE OF WQEX, MM Docket No. 01-276

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RE: MM Docket No. 01-276

Dear Commission Members:

Under no circumstances should you approve the commercialization and sale of the WQEX education license. Channel 16 should be maintained as a public broadcasting station. Regardless of its classification, reassignment of the WQEX license should be open to competing application to insure the citizens of southwestern Pennsylvania receive the best possible broadcasting.

QEX is not QED's to sell! It is a public trust, supported by private donations.

Contrary to WQED's assertions, the Pittsburgh regional economy has grown steadily, is culturally thriving, and can easily support two public television stations. Over the last decade the region has surpassed its 1979 economic peak and is producing \$10 billion more in real personal income than it did in 1979.

And WQED is NOT in a dire financial situation. By its own admission in a recent letter to the editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, QED is economically healthy and its debt does not threaten its broadcast operation. The WQED debt is, in fact, due to station mismanagement and high executive salaries and should be resolved internally, not through profit obtained from sale of a public trust asset.

Last summer I was disappointed by QED's lack of response to my request for them to tape a broadcast from France. This request came from me on behalf of all Pittsburgh area French teachers so that this program could be made available to us. The French embassy was only arranging this broadcast through American PBS affiliates. QED never got back to me on my initial request, made well in advance. When I called them about it a second time, they refused to tape it for me, claiming that there was not enough interest out there for this kind of programming. Au contraire!! French teachers in southwestern Pennsylvania would DEFINITELY have taken advantage of such availability of authentic French programming.

We miss this asset which we lost four years ago, and we look forward to the day when WQEX is available to the public with a wide range of programming.

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Sincerely,

Devin P. Browne
World Language Teacher
Pittsburgh Public Schools

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Do You Yahoo!?

Check out Yahoo! Shopping and Yahoo! Auctions for all of
your unique holiday gifts! Buy at <http://shopping.yahoo.com>
or bid at <http://auctions.yahoo.com>

CC: <kjmweb@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>

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From: Mel Siegel <mws@cmu.edu>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>
Date: Fri, Dec 14, 2001 12:46 PM
Subject: Save WQEX, revitalize WQED in Pittsburgh

Chairman Michael K. Powell: mpowell@fcc.gov
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy: kabernat@fcc.gov
Commissioner Michael J. Copps: mcopps@fcc.gov
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin: kjmweb@fcc.gov
Secretary Magalie Roman Salas: msalas@fcc.gov
Steve A. Lerman, Esq.: slerman@isl-law.com
Angela Campbell, Esq.: campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu
Jerold M. Starr, CIPB: jmstarr@cipbonline.org

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DEC 27 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: Save WQEX, revitalize WQED in Pittsburgh

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, and Martin:

01-276

There are now several hundred junk channels reaching Pittsburgh over the air, by cable, and by satellite dish. We don't need one more. What we need is local programming that covers events of more social and community import than the daily catalog of stabbings and suspicious fires that are the mainstay of the local network affiliates, and of more depth than CNN or BBC-America will ever provide. Despite Pittsburgh's mistaken but unfortunately lingering image as a grimy working class dump, this is an attractive, desirable, uniquely livable city whose major employers include a world-class university, a world-class medical center, a dozen innovative major corporations, and hundreds of high tech startups working on the cutting edge of information technologies. This market can support two or three or four world-class public TV stations. Sacrificing WQEX will exacerbate, not solve, the legacy of WQED's past mismanagement. Don't make a foolish irreversible mistake.

Sincerely yours,

Mel Siegel mws@cmu.edu
5232 Westminster Place
Pittsburgh PA 15232
412 621 6104

CC: <msalas@fcc.gov>, <slerman@isl-law.com>, <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>, <jmstarr@cipbonline.org>

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From: "Mike/Karen" <TheBilcsiks@att.net>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: Tue, Nov 27, 2001 3:50 PM
Subject: Sale of WQEX TV

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I am outraged that WQED TV may be allowed to sell WQEX. If the management of WQED was unable to sustain the profitability of their operation, they should find a way out of their problems that doesn't harm the publics' interest.

I learned from the Post Gazette that WQEX was profitable and they still shut it down. I was one of many who enjoyed the programming offered by WQEX. Why would the FCC allow WQED to shut down a "public television station" for their own economic interests? Isn't Public TV supposed to be in the publics' interest?

There are other people who want to bring back WQEX as a public TV station and have some good ideas about programming. You should give them their shot at making quality TV in Pittsburgh. Signed, Mike Bilcsik

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01-276

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From: <MMulvih136@aol.com>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kmartin@fcc.gov>
Date: Tue, Nov 27, 2001 2:29 PM
Subject: Dereservation of WQEX

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members:

In response to your request for public comment on whether to dereserve WQEX, I wish to advise that I wholeheartedly support such dereservation for a number of reasons, some of which are as follows:

It will allow WQED to sell Channel 16, subject, of course, to FCC approval of the Sale Application to Shooting Star Broadcasting, owned by Pittsburgh native Diane Sutter who has years of broadcasting experience in this city.

The proceeds of sale will be used to retire WQED's debt, to complete the conversion of WQED to a digital facility as required by the FCC, and to invest in programming and new technologies which will enable WQED to become a leading regional public multi-media enterprise.

Furthermore, it should be noted that WQED has pursued the dereservation of WQEX for almost five years, and any further delay will not serve the interests of the Pittsburgh community

Thank you for your attention to this message.

Mead J.

Mulvihill, Jr.

CC: <DSutter01@aol.com>

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From: Suzanne Motheral <sm29@cornell.edu>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: Tue, Nov 27, 2001 2:13 PM
Subject: WQEX

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Powell,

I am writing on behalf of the campaign to keep WQEX, Channel 16 a community broadcasting station, instead of being sold by WQED.

WQEX, Channel 16, is a public trust awarded to the people of Pittsburgh for educational broadcasting. It should be kept as such.

Pittsburgh has a proud tradition in public broadcasting, and it must remain true to the public, and not confuse public access and private ownership. A second, vital public broadcasting station is important to the cultural regeneration of the city and the economic growth so badly needed in the region now.

I understand that when it was broadcasting its own programming, WQEX cost only \$1 million a year to operate. Not only was this a fraction of WQED's budget, but WQEX generated a revenue surplus. It seems feasible for a community organized and run station to hold its own in Pittsburgh. Please be sure to give it that chance, and stop WQED from selling.

01-276

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Regards,
Suzanne Motheral
3955 Bigelow Blvd, #1106
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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From: Peggy Allen Heidish <ph1r+@andrew.cmu.edu>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: Tue, Nov 27, 2001 12:48 PM
Subject: Channel 16 belongs to Pittsburgh

531 Allenby Ave.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15218
 November 27, 2001

I am writing to you to express my concern about the possible sale by WQED of Channel 16 to Shooting Star, Inc. One of my main concerns is that WQEX, Channel 16, is a public trust given to the people of Pittsburgh for educational broadcasting; it is not the private property of WQED but is more like a "natural resource" belonging to the whole community.

In addition, our city already has plenty of commercial channels and having just one public station, WQED, is not enough for a city of this size. Pittsburgh is growing into world-class city and needs to have the resources of a world-class city, including more than one option for public broadcasting.

We must allow Channel 16 to be used for public broadcasting. As I understand it, there is a group, Pittsburgh Educational Television, willing to take on this task. Please give this group a chance to make appropriate use of WQEX.

Sincerely yours,
 Peggy Allen Heidish

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01-276

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From: Megan Branning <msbst41+@pitt.edu>
To: <webmaster@save16.org>, <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>, <msalas@fcc.gov>, <slerman@lsl-law.com>, <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>, <jmstarr@cipbonline.org>
Date: Mon, Nov 26, 2001 8:13 PM
Subject: MM Docket No. 01-276 --- WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX educational license

Magalie Roman Salas
 Office of the Secretary,
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20554
 Dear Commission members,

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DEC 27 2001

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

WQEX belongs to the citizens of Pittsburgh, and it should not be sold. The city is quite capable of supporting it, which is evidenced by the fact that it was the third most watched "second station" in the country. Pittsburghers love WQEX and the wonderful programming it provided us with. If it is sold, it will be a terrible disappointment to the citizens of this city.

You must not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license. Channel 16 should be kept as a public broadcasting station.

Thank you very much for your attention,

Megan Branning

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From: Ira Rothstein <ira@CMUHEP2.PHYS.CMU.EDU>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: Tue, Nov 27, 2001 10:09 AM

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Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,

I am deeply concerned about the future of public television in the WQED is now proposing to sell channel 16 to a commercial broadcaster and thus permanently depriving our city of varied public broadcasting. I believe our city deserves better. I have visited many cities with a comparable size of viewing public that have two or three public broadcasting stations.

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**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

I hope and trust that Pittsburgh once again can have two vital public broadcasting channels.

Sincerely yours

Ira Rothstein
Associate Prof. of Physics Carnegie Mellon University

01-276

CC: <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>

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From: "Denise Stokes" <denise_stokes13@hotmail.com>
To: <webmaster@save16.org>, <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>, <msalas@fcc.gov>, <slerman@isl-law.com>, <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>, <jmstarr@cipbonline.org>
Date: Mon, Nov 26, 2001 3:49 PM
Subject: MM Docket No. 01-276 --- WQED application to commercialize and sell th

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

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**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

Dear Commission members:

Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license. I support keeping Channel 16 a public broadcasting station.

WQED's motive for selling WQEX is to create revenue in order to pay its 9 million dollar debt. WQEX, Channel 16, is a public trust that was awarded to the people of Pittsburgh for educational broadcasting. It is not the private property of WQED Pittsburgh's board of directors. Thus, they do not have the right to sell it to solve financial issues that have occurred due to their wasteful mismanagement. Rather than sell Pittsburgh magazine and other nonbroadcast holdings, they prefer to sell something that was never rightfully theirs.

Pittsburgh is a large and active city. We readily support three public radio stations. We can easily support two public TV stations. Please give Channel 16 a chance to serve the educational and community needs of this region.

Sincerely,

Denise Stokes

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From: <Fathog@aol.com>
To: <webmaster@save16.org>, <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>, <msalas@fcc.gov>, <slerman@isl-law.com>, <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>, <jmstarr@cipbonline.org>
Date: Mon, Nov 26, 2001 7:15 PM
Subject: WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX educational license

Magalie Roman Salas
 Office of the Secretary,
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commission members,

Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license. I support keeping Channel 16 a public broadcasting station. Additional comments: The current management of WQED has already killed a second public channel by simulcasting all programs on both channels. I would like to see WQED's management held accountable for mismanaging finances so bad they feel a need to "sell" a license they were freely granted in the public interest. Pittsburgh should have no problem sustaining two public TV stations, as it is done in even smaller cities. If they cannot properly manage both channels, give one (or both) to someone who can.

-Sincerely
 Thomas B. Grayson
 1424 Rydal St.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15205

CC: <Fathog@aol.com>

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01-276

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From: "Jennifer A. Kukawa" <jkukawa@andrew.cmu.edu>
To: <webmaster@save16.org>, <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>, <msalas@fcc.gov>, <slerman@isl-law.com>, <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>, <jmstarr@cipbonline.org>
Date: Mon, Nov 26, 2001 1:38 PM
Subject: MM Docket No. 01-276

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Subject: MM Docket No. 01-276 --- WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX educational license

From: Jennifer A Kukawa

To: webmaster@save16.org, mpowell@fcc.gov, kabernat@fcc.gov, mcopps@fcc.gov, kjmweb@fcc.gov, msalas@fcc.gov, slerman@isl-law.com, campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu, jmstarr@cipbonline.org

Magalie Roman Salas
 Office of the Secretary,
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commission members,

Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license!

I support keeping Channel 16 a public broadcasting station.

WQEX, Channel 16, is a public trust that was awarded to the people of Pittsburgh for educational broadcasting. It is not the private property of WQED Pittsburgh's board of directors and they should not be allowed to sell it for their profit.

WQEX 16 was a voice of cultural diversity in Pittsburgh. It was truly an alternative to the upper-middle-class outlet that WQED has been. 16 was a voice of Pittsburgh that we do not get to hear anymore--and it will be a shame if it is lost forever. By slashing the QEX 16, "QED Communications" is limiting its potential as a PUBLIC provider, but also will be limiting Pittsburgh's potential to educate and bring together our community.

QED Communications group wants to silence QEX 16's voice because it wants to serve their board of director's interest, but this is not the public's interest! When WQEX was broadcasting its own programming, it cost only \$1 million a year to operate. This was a fraction of WQED's budget, and the designated donations received for WQEX were more than its operating costs, representing a net revenue gain. A similar revenue surplus could easily fund any capital expenditures needed to put Channel 16 back on the air, whether through WQED or a new, independent organization.

WQED has admitted to the FCC it is not in danger of going dark. It claims a \$9 million debt, half of which it owes to its own capital fund. It also has other assets, like Pittsburgh Magazine, worth millions more. If WQED is allowed to get away with selling the Channel 16 educational license for another infomercial station, it will set terrible precedent. How many other

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public stations across the country will be put on the block to solve budget issues that lay elsewhere?

WQED continues to spend freely even while it pleads poverty. In recent years, CFOs Mel Ming and Neil Mahrer have enjoyed compensation packages of close to a quarter million dollars a year each. Ten other WQED executives receive compensation packages up to \$160,000 per year. This is far in excess of counterpart stations in Philadelphia and St. Louis, and, given that WQED has nonetheless been paying down its debt, it represents that WQED has no dire financial need to cash in on the Channel 16 license. WQED has rejected bids from non-profit institutions in the community to operate WQEX as a public station. Instead, WQED CEO George Miles has demanded a huge windfall that is far in excess of the real market value of a noncommercial, public broadcasting license. As an alternative, a community initiative, Pittsburgh Educational Television (PET), has developed a business plan to restore public broadcasting on Channel *16 and serve the community WQED misses. Please give PET a chance to serve the people of this region.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Kukawa

Jennifer A. Kukawa
Carnegie Mellon University-GSIA 316
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Phone: 412.268.5043
Fax: 412.268.7064
Email: jkukawa@andrew.cmu.edu

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From: "Jerold M. Starr" <jmstarr@cipbonline.org>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>, <msalas@fcc.gov>, <slerman@lsl-law.com>, <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: Mon, Nov 26, 2001 10:34 AM
Subject: FW: WQEX TV

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

From: PATRICK S CRAIG [mailto:pac56+@pitt.edu]
 Sent: Sunday, November 25, 2001 6:38 PM
 To: jmstarr@cipbonline.org
 Subject: WQEX TV

To whom it may concern:

WQEX, Channel 16, is a public trust awarded to the people of Pittsburgh for educational broadcasting, not private property to be sold for profit by WQED Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh already has more than enough commercial channels and WQED is not enough. What we need is an alternative, educational channel that serves the people of this community.

WQED programs consist largely of children's shows and the national feed. With its emphasis on community oriented programming, Channel *16 (WQEX) was once the third most watched second station in the country. We need it now more than ever.

Pittsburgh is a large and active city. We are rebuilding our downtown cultural center and support three professional sports teams. We easily can support two public broadcasting stations. Other smaller cities presently do.

When it was broadcasting its own programming, WQEX cost only \$1 million a year to operate. Not only was this a fraction of WQED's budget, but WQEX actually generated a revenue surplus.

WQED's debts are the result of wasteful mismanagement. A WQED investigation into alleged embezzlement was kept secret even from its own board of directors.

WQED has admitted to the FCC it is not in danger of going dark. It claims a \$9 million debt, half of which it owes to its own capital fund. It also has assets, like Pittsburgh Magazine, worth millions more. If you allow WQED to get away with this, how many other public stations will be put on the block to solve cash flow problems that lay elsewhere?

Given WQED's long history of secrecy, it would not be accountable to the public in its use of this undeserved windfall.

WQED continues to spend freely even while it pleads poverty. In recent years, CFOs Mel Ming and Neil Mahrer have enjoyed compensation packages close to a quarter million dollars a year each. Ten WQED executives receive compensation packages up to \$160,000 per year, far in excess of counterparts in Philadelphia and St. Louis.

WQED has rejected bids from not-for-profit institutions in the community to operate WQEX as a public station because they weren't willing to give CEO George Miles the huge windfall he has demanded, far in excess of the real market value of a noncommercial station. In fact, right now Pittsburgh Educational Television (PET), a community initiative, has a business plan to restore public broadcasting on Channel *16. Please give PET a chance to serve the people of this community.

01-276

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Sincerely,

Patrick Craig
Pittsburgh, PA

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From: Roger Rafson <rafson@cmsradio.com>
To: <webmaster@save16.org>, <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>, <msalas@fcc.gov>, <slerman@lsl-law.com>, <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>, <jmstarr@cipbonline.org>
Date: Sun, Nov 25, 2001 11:16 PM
Subject: MM Docket No. 01-276 --- WQED application to commercialize andsell the WQEX educational license

Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license. I support keeping Channel 16 a public broadcasting station.
Additional comments:

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WQEX is a public asset. It is not something the management of WQED/WQEX ever bought. Therefore it is not theirs to sell! Channel 16 belongs to the community of Greater Pittsburgh.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The management of WQED/WQEX, which dug itself into a \$9 million deficit due to mismanagement and golden parachutes for its executives, seeks to eliminate the deficit by trying to sell Channel 16. I feel they have demonstrated their inability to show fiscal responsibility. The current management should be allowed to go out of business and new operators of the public frequencies should be allowed to run it.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Roger Rafson
Pittsburgh, PA

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From: jeff ritter <ritterj1@marie.laroche.edu>
To: <webmaster@save16.org>, <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>, <msalas@fcc.gov>, <slerman@lsl-law.com>, <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>, <jmstarr@cipbonline.org>
Date: Sun, Nov 25, 2001 10:32 PM
Subject: channel 16

I was shocked to see that WQED is still trying to get channel 16 converted to a commercial station in order to sell it to wipe out their debt. Channel 13 right now is one of the worst Public tv stations I have ever seen - airing info-mercials, decades old programming and irrelevant broadcasts at odd hours - (a science show for elementary schoolers at 11 PM??)

I think that channel 16 should be given a chance to flourish by turning it over to another party interested in serving the public and using the airwaves for an alternative to stale Public tv fare. I hope this turns out to be the case in Pittsburgh.

thanks
 jeff ritter

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DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

From: PATRICK S CRAIG <pac56+@pitt.edu>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: Sun, Nov 25, 2001 6:31 PM
Subject: WQEX TV

To whom it may concern,

WQEX, Channel 16, is a public trust awarded to the people of Pittsburgh for educational broadcasting, not private property to be sold for profit by WQED Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh already has more than enough commercial channels and WQED is not enough. What we need is an alternative, educational channel that serves the people of this community.

WQED programs consist largely of children's shows and the national feed. With its emphasis on community oriented programming, Channel *16 (WQEX) was once the third most watched second station in the country. We need it now more than ever.

Pittsburgh is a large and active city. We are rebuilding our downtown cultural center and support three professional sports teams. We easily can support two public broadcasting stations. Other smaller cities presently do.

When it was broadcasting its own programming, WQEX cost only \$1 million a year to operate. Not only was this a fraction of WQED's budget, but WQEX actually generated a revenue surplus.

WQED's debts are the result of wasteful mismanagement. A WQED investigation into alleged embezzlement was kept secret even from its own board of directors.

WQED has admitted to the FCC it is not in danger of going dark. It claims a \$9 million debt, half of which it owes to its own capital fund. It also has assets, like Pittsburgh Magazine, worth millions more. If you allow WQED to get away with this, how many other public stations will be put on the block to solve cash flow problems that lay elsewhere?

Given WQED's long history of secrecy, it would not be accountable to the public in its use of this undeserved windfall. WQED continues to spend freely even while it pleads poverty. In recent years, CFOs Mel Ming and Neil Mahrer have enjoyed compensation packages close to a quarter million dollars a year each. Ten WQED executives receive compensation packages up to \$160,000 per year, far in excess of counterparts in Philadelphia and St. Louis.

WQED has rejected bids from not-for-profit institutions in the community to operate WQEX as a public station because they weren't willing to give CEO George Miles the huge windfall he has demanded, far in excess of the real market value of a noncommercial station. In fact, right now Pittsburgh Educational Television (PET), a community initiative, has a business plan to restore public broadcasting on Channel *16. Please give PET a chance to serve the people of this community.

Sincerely,

01-27-01

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Patrick Craig
Pittsburgh, PA

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From: <TrumpRM@aol.com>
To: <webmaster@save16.org>, <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>, <msalas@fcc.gov>, <slerman@isl-law.com>, <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>, <jmstarr@cipbonline.org>
Date: Sun, Nov 25, 2001 5:32 PM
Subject: MM Docket No. 01-276 --- WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX edu

Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license. I support keeping Channel 16 a public broadcasting station.
Additional comments:

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From: "Carol Moessinger" <pcmoessinger@earthlink.net>
To: <webmaster@save16.org>, <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>, <msalas@fcc.gov>, <slerman@isl-law.com>, <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>, <jmstarr@cipbonline.org>
Date: Sun, Nov 25, 2001 2:10 PM
Subject: MM Docket No. 01-276 --- WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX educational license

Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license. I support keeping Channel 16 a public broadcasting station.
Additional comments:

Public Broadcasting should be supported with monies from public coffers. If private airlines can be bailed out by the Federal Government. Certainly, public broadcasting should be helped as it benefits every person in the United States who has a television.

Carol J. Moessinger

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

From: "Robert Zollweg" <rzollweg@nb.net>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: Sun, Nov 25, 2001 11:58 AM
Subject: Save channel 16

Chairman Powell:

I very much support the effort to keep channel 16 as a public service station and not permit the fatcat board of WQED to sell it off for commercial use in order to cover their debts that were incurred by poor management and by paying outrageous salaries and benefits to their executive staff.

Channel 16 should remain a public service station with a separate management from WQED.

Robert Zollweg

01-27-01

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From: Frank Heath <fheath@stargate.net>
To: <webmaster@save16.org>, <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>, <msalas@fcc.gov>, <slerman@isl-law.com>, <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>, <jmstarr@cipbonline.org>
Date: Sun, Nov 25, 2001 10:54 AM
Subject: MM Docket No. 01-276 --- WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX educational license

Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license. I support keeping Channel 16 a public broadcasting station. Additional comments:

I teach video production to high school students and have a very active group, including alumni in college at local schools. There is very little that WQED programs that touches these people at all. They have little interest in financial and self-help gurus, doo-wop and cooking shows. WQEX did and could again feature programming to engage this age group and give them an outlet for their increasingly sophisticated digital video productions.

WQED is now programming Ed Sullivan along with Lawrence Welk. That may match their backward looking doowop connection and their fascination with Pittsburgh society as evidenced by their deathgrip on their overly precious magazine, but it does nothing to serve the younger audience.

I went to college at Michigan State University and Dr. Walter Emery taught us of the responsibilities of broadcasting 'in the public interest.' That was a long time ago and much has changed, but the airways, licensed by the FCC should still belong to the people. That means public broadcasting in Pittsburgh should be available to the broad spectrum of population, not only to the monied few.

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01-276

From: "michael cosentino" <mikeyc85@hotmail.com>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>
Date: Thu, Dec 13, 2001 4:26 PM
Subject: WQEX, 16

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners:

My name is Michael Cosentino, and I am a Student at the University of Pittsburgh. I am writing this letter urging you not to let WQEX be sold, as it is a valuable asset to the community. I know this from personal experience- this past summer, I helped babysit my infant nephew, Tommy. The children's programs that were featured daily on WQED and WQEX were avidly consumed and enjoyed by all of us, and are a feature of spending time with him that I would like to see remain. So once again, please reconsider the sale of WQEX. Below is a further list of reasons why I believe the station should stay available to those who benefit the most from its existence- everyday citizens, with families, and the right to alternative, community-oriented broadcasting that is available no where else.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

* WQEX, Channel 16, is a public trust awarded to the people of Pittsburgh for educational broadcasting, not private property to be sold for profit by WQED Pittsburgh.

* WQED programs consist largely of children's shows and the national feed. With its emphasis on community-oriented programming, WQEX was once the third most watched second station in the country. We need it now more than ever.

* Pittsburgh is a large and active city. We are rebuilding our downtown cultural center and support three professional sports teams. We easily can support two public broadcasting stations. Other smaller cities presently do.

* When it was broadcasting its own programming, WQEX cost only \$1 million a year to operate. Not only was this a fraction of WQED's budget, but WQEX actually generated a revenue surplus.

* WQED's debts are the result of wasteful mismanagement. A WQED investigation into alleged embezzlement was kept secret even from its own board of directors.

* WQED has admitted to the FCC it is not in danger of going dark. It claims a \$9 million debt, half of which it owes to its own capital fund. It also has assets, like Pittsburgh Magazine, worth millions more. If you allow WQED to get away with this, how many other public stations will be put on the block to solve cash flow problems that lay elsewhere?

* Given WQED's long history of secrecy, it would not be accountable to the public in its use of this undeserved windfall.

* WQED continues to spend freely even while it pleads poverty. In recent years, CFOs Mel Ming and Neil Mahrer have enjoyed compensation packages close to a quarter million dollars a year each. Ten WQED executives receive compensation packages up to \$160,000 per year, far in excess of counterparts in Philadelphia and St. Louis.

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* WQED has rejected bids from not-for-profit institutions in the community to operate WQEX as a public station because they weren't willing to give CEO George Miles the huge windfall he has demanded, far in excess of the real market value of a noncommercial station. In fact, right now Pittsburgh Educational Television (PET), a community initiative, has a business plan to restore public broadcasting on Channel *16. Please give PET a chance to serve the people of this community.

Thank you for your time. Sincerely,

Michael Cosentino

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01-276

From: "David A. Dzombak" <dzombak@cmu.edu>
To: "Michael K. Powell" <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: Thu, Dec 13, 2001 3:25 PM
Subject: comments on WQED petition

DUPLICATE FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Chairman Michael J. Powell
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, SW
 Room 8-B201
 Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Powell:

I am a resident of the Pittsburgh area and long-time viewer and supporter of WQED. I encourage you to approve the WQED petition to dereserve WQEX, Channel 16, so that it can operate as a commercial station.

Despite continuous and substantial efforts to expand community support, WQED faces continuous financial stress. Allowing dereservation of Channel 16 will strengthen the financial position of WQED dramatically, ensuring its long term financial viability, and its vitality.

WQED has always been an important voice for the community and offers acclaimed programming that is responsive to the needs of the people of this region. WQEX is a weak sibling by comparison, yet it poses a significant drain on WQED resources. The FCC's grant of WQED's petition and approval of the sale of Channel 16 will provide for one strong noncommercial station in Pittsburgh.

The Pittsburgh region is well served by WQED as the primary noncommercial station, and will be better served by a stronger WQED, rather than having two weak noncommercial stations.

I strongly urge you to act favorably on WQED's petition. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David A. Dzombak

6929 Rosewood Street
 Pittsburgh, PA 15208
 phone: 412-362-7077
 email: dzombak@cmu.edu

CC: Angela Campbell <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>, George Hazimanolis

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01-276

From: "Claire C" <clairec@generalpipecleaners.com>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>, <msalas@fcc.gov>, <slerman@isl-law.com>, <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>, <jmstarr@cipbonline.org>
Date: Thu, Dec 13, 2001 2:32 PM
Subject: WQEX / WQED Television in Pittsburgh PA

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Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners:

WQEX, Channel 16, is a public trust awarded to the people of Pittsburgh for educational broadcasting, not private property to be sold for profit by WQED Pittsburgh. WQED programs consist largely of children's shows and the national feed.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Pittsburgh is a large and active city. We are rebuilding our downtown cultural center and support three professional sports teams. We easily can support two public broadcasting stations. Other smaller cities presently do. When it was broadcasting its own programming, WQEX cost only \$1 million a year to operate. Not only was this a fraction of WQED's budget, but WQEX actually generated a revenue surplus.

WQED's debts are the result of wasteful mismanagement. A WQED investigation into alleged embezzlement was kept secret even from its own board of directors. WQED has admitted to the FCC it is not in danger of going dark. It also has assets, like Pittsburgh Magazine, worth millions more. If you allow WQED to get away with this, how many other public stations will be put on the block to solve cash flow problems that lay elsewhere?

Given WQED's long history of secrecy, it would not be accountable to the public in its use of this undeserved windfall. WQED continues to spend freely even while it pleads poverty. In recent years, CFOs Mel Ming and Neil Mahrer have enjoyed compensation packages close to a quarter million dollars a year each. Ten WQED executives receive compensation packages up to \$160,000 per year, far in excess of counterparts in Philadelphia and St. Louis.

WQED has rejected bids from not-for-profit institutions in the community to operate WQEX as a public station because they weren't willing to give CEO George Miles the huge windfall he has demanded, far in excess of the real market value of a noncommercial station. In fact, right now Pittsburgh Educational Television (PET), a community initiative, has a business plan to restore public broadcasting on Channel *16. Please give PET a chance to serve the people of this community.

With its emphasis on community-oriented programming, WQEX was once the third most watched second station in the country. We need it now more than ever.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Silverman

77 Lebanon Hills Drive

Pittsburgh PA 15228

412 / 341-1140

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From: Liz Miles <lizmiles@home.com>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kmartin@fcc.gov>
Date: Thu, Dec 13, 2001 11:25 AM
Subject: Dereservation of WQEX

01-276

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Dear Mr. Chairman and Members:

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DEC 26 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

I am responding to you request for public comments on the dereservation of WQEX TV in Pittsburgh, PA.

As a broadcast journalist with twenty years experience in the Pittsburgh market, and as a longtime viewer and supporter of WQED, I wholeheartedly support the sale of WQEX to ShootingStar Broadcasting.

The proceeds of this sale will insure that WQED continues to be an important voice in the Pittsburgh community.

Diane Sutter's extensive professional experience, her roots in the community, her commitment to the highest standards of television programming, as well as her long-standing and well deserved reputation as a creative, caring and fiscally responsible manager make her an ideal candidate to make WQEX a valuable viewing alternative for the Pittsburgh audience.

I have no doubt that if ShootingStar Broadcasting is allowed to purchase WQEX, Pittsburgh will gain a television station that is uniquely committed to the needs and interests of the community. At the same time, WQED will be in a position to once again focus it's energies on the type of acclaimed programming for which it is known and for which Pittsburgh is so proud.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Liz Miles

CC: <ghaziman@wqed.org>, <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>

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From: Keith Dom Powell <ap25@andrew.cmu.edu>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: Thu, Dec 6, 2001 3:24 PM
Subject: WQEX Pittsburgh

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL 274

Keith Dom Powell
 4114 Millington Road
 Pittsburgh, PA 15217-2850

December 6, 2001

Chairman Michael K. Powell
 F.C.C.
 Washington D.C. 20006

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DEC 26 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Powell,

I am writing to express my opposition at plans by WQED Pittsburgh to change the license of station WQEX, Channel 16 (which the community not WQED owns) from educational to commercial. As a non-commercial broadcast entity, WQEX has provided countless hours of instruction and entertainment to Western Pennsylvania. To allow the non-commercial broadcast license of the station to be changed to a commercial one will seriously change for the worse the community it has been serving.

Channel 16 is a community trust formed to serve the educational needs of the community. How would a commercial station, whose main goal is to make money, address the educational needs of Pittsburgh?

At present, WQED is simulcasting its signal on both Channels 16 and 13. Whenever a special need for extra event coverage comes up, as when the impeachment hearings were televised, or the September 11 disaster coverage,

the educational component suffers. Such instructional shows as Destinos (a program for teaching Spanish), Sesame Street, or Reading Rainbow (to cite just a few) which in the past would have aired on the sister station have not been broadcast for the duration of the special coverage. This indicates the contempt by WQED Pittsburgh for the community that it serves.

Gone are the independent films such as Rocco and his Seven Brothers and Woman of the Dunes which I once enjoyed viewing on WQEX. Absent too are many of the British comedies, found nowhere else in other stations? programming.

WQED has the idea that it can reap a windfall from the sale of WQEX to take care of its ongoing fiscal mismanagement and cash flow problems. What happens in the future when these same problems crop up again? Little product is being generated by WQED. It no longer produces programs such as the National Geographic Specials. The station?s management is too well compensated for what little is being produced.

WQED has rejected the idea that it should turn WQEX over to a truly community-based organization without receiving several millions of dollars.

Why should an organization such as Pittsburgh Educational Television pay to keep educational TV on the airwaves? WQEX is a public trust owned by the people of Pittsburgh for educational broadcasting.

I hope the current FCC takes its oversight role seriously. Despite past misdeeds of WQED, it has been allowed to continue to operate in virtual secrecy and without community involvement. Its board is unwilling to offer a dissenting voice to question failed ideas of the past. Please give Pittsburgh Educational Television or

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another such entity a chance to rectify the mistakes of WQED and keep the non-commercial license intact. Only then will we again have a community station to be proud of.

Respectfully yours,
Keith Dom Powell

LOOK FOR COPY ORIGINAL 01-274

From: "Jerold M. Starr" <jmstarr@cipbonline.org>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>, <msalas@fcc.gov>, <slerman@lsl-law.com>, <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: Wed, Nov 28, 2001 9:57 AM
Subject: FW: WQEX

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

From: Suzanne Motheral [mailto:sm29@cornell.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, November 27, 2001 2:15 PM
To: jmstarr@cipbonline.org
Subject: WQEX

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**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

Dear Mr. Starr,

I am writing on behalf of the campaign to keep WQEX, Channel 16 a community broadcasting station, instead of being sold by WQED.

WQEX, Channel 16, is a public trust awarded to the people of Pittsburgh for educational broadcasting. It should be kept as such.

Pittsburgh has a proud tradition in public broadcasting, and it must remain true to the public, and not confuse public access and private ownership. A second, vital public broadcasting station is important to the cultural regeneration of the city and the economic growth so badly needed in the region now.

I understand that when it was broadcasting its own programming, WQEX cost only \$1 million a year to operate. Not only was this a fraction of WQED's budget, but WQEX generated a revenue surplus. It seems feasible for a community organized and run station to hold its own in Pittsburgh. Please be sure to give it that chance, and stop WQED from selling.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Regards,
Suzanne Motheral
3955 Bigelow Blvd, #1106
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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01-274

From: Ivy Lee <cpac916@yahoo.com>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: Tue, Nov 27, 2001 8:00 PM
Subject: Opposition to Sale of KPST in SF

DUCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Mr. Michael Powell, Chairman
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, S. W.
 Washington DC 20554

RE: Opposition to Sale of KPST, Channel 66

Dear Mr. Powell:

I am writing this letter to express my strong opposition regarding the proposed sale of KPST Channel 66 to Univision. If the sale takes place and Univision's plans are carried out, this will mean the end of Chinese programming on the channel. KPST is a popular Chinese language TV station in the San Francisco Bay Area and its signal is transmitted to Sacramento through cable. It airs 4.5 hours of Chinese programming each evening and carries the highest Nielsen ratings in the Bay Area for a community of a million viewers.

Channel 66 is one of two major sources of news and Chinese programming for our community. We rely on it daily for local Chinese news, news from Asia, and entertainment programs. It reaches every corner of the Chinese community and is a common bond for those who speak Chinese in the Greater Bay Area. It also serves as a bridge between our community and the mainstream American society by reporting events in this country such as our war against terrorism, key legislations, and other major news events.

KPST is an irreplaceable resource for the Greater Bay Area Chinese. Without it, there will be only one major Chinese station left, KTSF, which is Cantonese-oriented, and one minor station, Channel 32, which has very limited Chinese programming. Therefore, losing Channel 66 is more devastating for the Chinese viewers than it would be for the Spanish speaking audience because there still would be at least two 24 hour Spanish speaking stations. The loss will effectively eliminate the competition between the two stations with Chinese viewers.

I am writing this letter to strongly urge the FCC to block the sale of KPST to Univision. Or, at least to require the new owner to continue the current Chinese Programming in the evening time slot for at least another five years. Without one of these actions by the FCC, our community will suffer a serious loss.

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Very truly yours,
Ivy Lee, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus, California State University, Sacramento

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<http://geocities.yahoo.com/ps/info1>

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From: "JohnMole" <johnmole@adelphia.net>
To: <webmaster@save16.org>, <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>, <msalas@fcc.gov>, <slerman@lsl-law.com>, <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>, <jmstarr@cipbonline.org>
Date: Tue, Nov 27, 2001 4:09 PM
Subject: MM Docket No. 01-276----WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX educational license

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

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DEC 26 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Commission Members,

Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX'S educational license. I support keeping Channel 16 a public broadcasting station.

Additional Comments:

WQEX, Channel 16, is a public trust that was once awarded to the people of Pittsburgh for educational broadcasting. It is not the private property of WQED Pittsburgh and they should not be allowed to sell it for profit.

Pittsburgh does not need another commercial TV channel. It already has more than enough! Since WQED shut down WQEX's programming and began simulcasting, it has failed to meet the larger educational and community needs of this region. We need an alternative educational channel which can meet the needs of the entire community--as well, or better, than WQEX once did.

There are enough individual supporters of WQEX and local foundations to fully fund the station and activities, without resort to the highly objectionable fund raising tactics of public television. We and many others will support WQEX handsomely if it is set up fully independent of WQED and continues the policies of the former WQEX.

WQED provides mediocre and cheap fill-in programming, which is a virtual wasteland for intelligent people. We used to watch WQED and WQEX as preferred TV resources but rarely find anything of interest now. WQED have squandered their charter for educational TV and constantly abuses their viewers, listeners and supporters. We still support WQED financially but have not increased our donations due to the constant degradation of the programming and the large amount of wasted time due to aggressive fund raising.

WQED could provide much better programming now if it practiced sound management principles. However, they not only employ excessive staff but pay the management excessive pay and benefits. This is an example of their arrogance and contempt for their viewers. If they structured their finances soundly there would be another \$1 million available for better programming.

WQED's debts are the result of wasteful management which continues to this day. A WQED investigation into alleged embezzlement was kept secret even from its own board of directors. The people of the region should not suffer from the misdeeds of a few by losing an essential community asset.

WQED has rejected bids from non-profit institutions in the community to operate WQEX as a public station. Instead, WQED CEO George Miles has demanded a huge windfall that is far in excess of the real market value of a non-commercial, public broadcasting license. As an alternative, a community initiative, Pittsburgh Educational Television (PET), has developed a business plan to restore public broadcasting on Channel # 16 and serve the community WQED neglects. Please give PET a chance to serve the people of

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this region.

Mr. & Mrs. C. John Mole
1765 Mountain View Drive
Monroeville, PA 15146-2030

Tel: (724) 327-0039
Email: johnmole@adelphia.net

CC: <johnmole@adelphia.net>

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~~DOCKBOCKE COMMUNICATIONS~~

DEC 27 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

01-276

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners:

WQEX must remain a public station. Its reserved status as a channel for educational and cultural broadcasting is absolutely vital to us as a community. The provision of choice is the essence of belief in the human ideals of free will and the Constitutions guarantee of individual pursuits of fulfillment. Nevertheless, as the ever-increasing practice of mega-merging and franchising will attest, even these most basic tenets of what it is to be a human being are not sacred enough to be immune from loopholes. The individual, and his education by way of what information is available to him, must remain a profound consideration of mass government, not merely patronized by it.

I am a citizen of the City of Pittsburgh and I take advantage of the benefit of the vote, as well as I pay dearly for that questionable privilege in my taxes. I gladly participate in each process because I see promise in this city's present, and my future as a resident here. This future is discounted by any short-term answer to what problems we may have. WQED's designs on an easy cash bailout at our expense are despicable. WQEX, Channel 16, is a public trust awarded to the people of Pittsburgh for educational broadcasting, not private property to be sold for profit by WQED Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh is a large and active city. We are rebuilding our downtown cultural center and support three professional sports teams. We easily can support two public broadcasting stations. Other smaller cities presently do.

When it was broadcasting its own programming, WQEX cost only \$1 million a year to run. Operating at only a fraction of WQED's budget, WQEX actually generated a revenue surplus. Not a glamorous success, you might say. Yet WQED's fiscal woes are remarkable. WQED's debts are the result of wasteful mismanagement. A WQED investigation into alleged embezzlement was kept secret even from its own board of directors. Furthermore, WQED has admitted to the FCC it is not in danger of going dark. It claims a \$9 million debt, half of which it owes to its own capital fund. It also has assets, like Pittsburgh Magazine, worth millions more. If you allow WQED to get away with this, how many other public stations will be put on the block to solve cash flow problems that lay elsewhere? Is this really a precedent you want to set? This little guy implores you to fight the good fight for once.

Sincerely,

Matt Novak

Mt. Washington

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From: Pat Lewis <panlewis@earthlink.net>
To: <FCC-comments@save16.org>, <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>, <msalas@fcc.gov>, <slerman@lsl-law.com>, <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>, <jmstarr@ciponline.org>
Date: Tue, Dec 18, 2001 3:58 PM
Subject: WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX educational license

Magalie Roman Salas
 Office of the Secretary
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, SW
 Washington, DC 20554

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DEC 27 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

re: MM Docket No. 01-276

Dear Commission Members,

Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license.

I support keeping Channel 16 a public broadcasting station. However, irrespective of its classification, any reissuance or reassignment of WQEX's license should be open to competing applications to ensure the citizens of southwestern Pennsylvania receive the best possible broadcasting.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Patricia Ann Lewis
 4728 Wallingford St.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15213-1712

Wesley A. Mills
 1125 Richmond St.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15218-1014

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