

TO: FCC Task Force on Broadcast Localism
SUBJECT: RM-10803

I am writing to let you know that I oppose the renewal of the license of Clear Channel networks in North Carolina, specifically the Raleigh/Durham area and station G105 (WDGC).

On September 22 and 23, their shock jocks, Bob and Madison, dedicated a segment of their program on both days to advocating violence against cyclists. One host suggested pelting cyclists with empty Yoo-Hoo bottles, which he purportedly carries in his car for just such opportunities. These “personalities” were using the airwaves to instruct the motoring public to commit a Class E felony by violating North Carolina General Statute 14-32, Assault with a Deadly Weapon Inflicting Serious Injury. A car can be considered a deadly weapon in a situation where person/motorist has intentionally struck a cyclists, as suggested on the Bob and Madison Morning Show.”

While it may seem that these broadcasts would be protected by free speech, a right we all hold dear, the fact that these “personalities” are inciting the public to commit felonious assault and the “likelihood of its success” make these actions clearly UNPROTECTED by the right of free speech and potentially actionable. The fact that within days of the broadcasts numerous cyclists in the area reported aggressive behavior by motorists towards them, lends credence to the fact that these inciteful remarks were, in fact, quite successful. Clear Channel should be held responsible for the actions of its employees.

This is not the first time Clear Channel has used these tactics - they have run similar anti-cyclist broadcasts in Cleveland and Houston. This has apparently become a modus operandi for Clear Channel in the belief that it will boost their ratings. Perhaps elsewhere, but not in our area. We have a strong cycling community and have already convinced several sponsors of the station’s program to withdraw their support. Clear Channel obviously knows what they’re doing is wrong or they would not have made amends in Cleveland as they did.

Cyclists play an important part in our community and perform a needed public service by raising funds to find cures for diseases such as multiple sclerosis, diabetes, and Aids. Hopefully, no one in the “personalities” family or circle of friends will develop one of these diseases, but wouldn’t it be terrible to think that the station condoned the advocacy of violence against the very people out their raising money for research for that cure. Recently, more than 900 cyclists took part in the MS150 Bike Tour and raised more than \$640,000 to help end the devastating effects of multiple sclerosis. More recently, many took to the road again Pedaling for Pediatrics to raise funds for the children’s hospital. We live in a community of caring giving people and Clear Channel is advocating making these people targets.

Radio stations all around the country are charged with operating for the public good. Clear Channel clearly not met that charge and is not a good corporate citizen by any stretch of the imagination. Their programming strategies need to be changed for the better or they need to not be broadcasting at all.

Respectfully submitted