

To whom it may concern:

Several radio stations in Washington state (10) have failed to answer my queries (sometimes 3 and 4 requests!) as to why they are not covering local issues in their city of license.

First the positive: KCIS, Edmonds. After being contacted by both the station manager and the news director they promised increased coverage of Edmonds issues and concerns. KENU, Enumclaw, was doing commendable local coverage of civic issues, despite their local studios placed elsewhere. KAAP, Rock Island, WA, despite studios located in Wenatchee, the station manager showed me news coverage of Rock Island school, city, community meetings and coverage of community issues.

However, stations KNWX, Auburn, KWRM, Bremerton, KGNW, Burien, KEYF, Cheney, KFNK, Eastonville, KAAR, Kirkland, KIXI, Mercer Island, KIZX, Opportunity, KZIZ, Sumner and KKMO, Tacoma failed to respond with any information about their coverage of city issues.

I understand that this not required by the FCC to report on such issues. I believe that this example shows what happens when a community station studio is closed and opened in a metro area up to 35 miles away. Except for the station ID mentioning the city, there is little done for the city that gave them the privilege to broadcast in the first place.

Gone are news of city council, high school ball games, coverage of issues that involve the future of such entities. In defense of KIXI, they do participate in the annual Mercer Island Summer Celebration with live broadcasts from the event.

The deputy mayor of Burien was incredulous to think that the city had a radio station! No one from the facility had ever contacted the city council. The same for the city of Cheney's administrator.

Stations KIXI and KIZX did return an email to setup an appointment to meet with them. But repeated attempts to remind them have drawn no response. KIXI send a form letter that did not answer why they were not covering Mercer Island events. (The station does appear one weekend in the year at The Mercer Island Festival)

I am still in broadcasting. I started in a small town 54 years ago. What has happened to local radio is very disturbing. The cities have mostly been abandoned by large broadcast companies.

In my original email to the FCC in July, 2004, I was told I should contact the stations directly about their local coverage. I tried and am very disappointed at the "stonewalling".

Thank you for your consideration.