

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

June 23, 2005

Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: License for KALW(FM), San Francisco, CA
MB Docket No. 04-191



Dear Secretary:

I am writing as a faithful KALW-FM listener to urge that it be allowed to keep its license.

I understand that the challenge to its license began in 1997 at the instance of GGPR(?), an insiders' group that no longer exists. I do not know what GGPR's problems were with the station, but I do know as a listener that I cannot speak highly enough of this station. It is the ideal public radio station.

It's hard for me even to imagine there could be a question about KALW's value to the community. If you look at the program schedule you will see that they make an extraordinary effort to serve their community: they broadcast the meetings of the SF School Board; they discuss legal issues and allow callers to get free legal advice from volunteer lawyers; they have a program that discusses SF social issues. They even announce the SF public school lunch menus every morning. I listen to KALW every day and I trust them to bring me balanced, intelligent news every day. And, besides a lineup that includes local, NPR, PRI, and BBC news, they put on an amazingly rich smorgasbord of musical and cultural programs: American and its roots cultures' folk music, the music of the African diaspora, a wonderful program on classical and contemporary music (one of the only places on the dial you will hear "early music," my particular love); programs on writers, short stories, a weekly talk show about philosophical issues with two professors from Stanford. The Commonwealth Club. The list just goes on.

In an urban area that is blessed with an enormous variety of interesting and valuable stations, the SF Bay Area, I think KALW is the best we have. They do an enormous amount on a shoestring budget that ought to shame any commercial operation. In addition to this they produce a number of programs themselves, rather than simply rebroadcasting the work of others. And under current station manager Nicole Sawaya(sp?), they are especially attentive to the feelings of their listeners: they have a quarterly Manager's Report to the Listeners (or something like that), where they open their mailbag and discuss listener's concerns and the whys and wherefores of their broadcasting schedule -- and what schedule changes they plan to address listeners' wishes. Again, I challenge you to come up with a single commercial station that cares so sincerely and is that open about the wishes of its audience; given the times we live in, I would dare to call it a fundamentally democratic institution, both in word and deed.

To sum up, KALW is a terrific station, and it is composed of a hard-working, intelligent, charming, and -- yes -- modest crew, and they deserve every right to continue to broadcast. The community is well served by them, and could hardly hope to be so lucky as to get another station with the unique and rich heritage of KALW if its license were taken away. I hope you will consider these points carefully and will renew KALW's license without any conditions or caveats. They deserve no less.

I would be happy to say more in support of the station, and would be happy to find plenty of other satisfied listeners, if you need more proofs of the station's value to its audience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jean McAneny".

Jean McAneny
1019 Key Route Blvd.
Albany, CA 94706

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→ Cc: Chief, Enforcement Bureau /Federal Communications Commission / 445 Twelfth Street, S.W./Washington, D.C. 20554