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From: Mauro DePasquale [mauro@wccatv.org]
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2006 11:31 AM
To: KJMWEB; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Tracy Foley
Subject: RE: FCC MB Docket No. 05-311

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Chairman Kevin J. Martin: KJMWEB@fcc.gov
Commissioner Michael J. Copps: Michael.Copps@fcc.gov
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein: Jonathan.Adelstein@fcc.gov
RE: MB Docket 05-311

Do not let consumer issues or big business profits ruin what is perhaps the last vestige of Democracy through electronic media. Please protect local franchise authorities and ensure strongest protection possible for public access channels such as WCCA TV.

For the last 20 years WCCA TV 13, "The People's Channel" has given over 84 million dollars in community media public access service. Thousands of hours of community produced TV programs, television and multi media workshops, access to state of the art equipment, an electronic platform or soapbox to freely express ideas and opinions and share information. All made possible by local franchise support through funding and capital provided through an exchange of local rights of way. WCCA TV is a thriving community media center where citizen are producing their own relevant television programs and more. Public Access television is: TV by the People, For the People, Of the People. Worcester is a very diverse urban city, the second largest city in Massachusetts and New England. WCCA TV provides services for thousands of citizens and organizations. Public access television empowers all citizens no matter what their economic status, by giving them an equal opportunity to participate in civic debate, share opinions, tell their stories, share heritage and culture free from corporate retribution and political whim. Here is a bullet sample of what local franchise authority has made it possible for through public access television in Worcester: WCCA to provide access 24/7 every day of the year for the past 20 years, We provide the first medial literacy program in the City, Provide comprehensive training in workforce development, computer applications, television production, KidsNet/Youth channel (year round after school multi media hands on experience of youth at risk), two community news productions (in English on Spanish), we present over 145 hours per week of local originated video programming covering a vast range of topics from veterans, municipal, forums, candidate profiles, health, educational, news and information, and new ideas and opinions, WCCA also offers free community computer lab and WiFi making it possible for anyone to gain free access to the internet. Most use this time to search for jobs, write resumes, check email or learn to produce graphics to be applied on TV shows. This is too valuable to loose. Please focus on protecting the civic values and benefits that emanate from the local PUBLIC ACCESS TV channels and the public access process.

Video franchise agreements are the only mechanism that protects and ensures the existence of local Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) Access TV channels and centers. Local video franchises between municipalities and the Cable TV companies have served the community for three decades; phone companies offering Video Services must have local franchises just as the Cable TV companies do. In order to protect PEG channels and facilities, we must ensure that local municipalities have the authority to require local video franchising. Again. Please do not let consumer issues or big business profits ruin what is perhaps the last vestige of democracy through electronic media. Please protect local franchise authorities and ensure strongest protection possible for public access channels such as WCCA TV.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Mauro DePasquale, WCCA TV 13, "The People's Channel", Worcester, MA

MA Copps rec'd
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