

CGB-CC-0100

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December 27, 2005

FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH
Shreveport

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
Attention: CGB Room 3-B431
9300 East Hampton Drive
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

RE: REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM COMMISSION'S CLOSED CAPTIONING RULES

First Baptist Church (FBC) in Shreveport, Louisiana broadcasts its Sunday morning worship service on local television once per week for 60 minutes. The purpose of this petition is to request an exemption from the Closed Captioning Requirements, under Section 79.1 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. and 79.1. Compliance would impose an undue burden to First Baptist Church for the following reasons:

1. During 2004, FBC had a total of \$2,098,786 in total revenues for unrestricted use in all of its ministries. Each year these funds are exhausted, essentially in their entirety, in service of the various ministries we support, locally, nationally and internationally. More often than not, these funds are expended for the benefit of the poor, powerless and afflicted, consistent with our Christian commitments. Relevant to this filing is our special, historic commitment to the deaf and hearing-impaired constituencies, which we serve through the First Baptist Church Deaf Mission. We budgeted more than \$49,000 for the Deaf Ministry in 2005, representing over 70% of the entire budget of that ministry. We are fearful that funds diverted from the Deaf Ministry to closed captioning, in order to serve the same communities, will diminish a highly effective, person to person communication of our message. In short, it is our opinion that these funds better serve the deaf community through the deaf mission than through closed captioning. Additionally, we will continue to solicit the assistance of the local network affiliate and others in our community for funds or other assistance in defraying the additional costs for closed captioning.
2. If we are forced to provide closed captioning, it would be necessary at this time to send the programs to an outside source for assistance in providing captioning. This would impact meeting airdate deadlines and the added production cost would make production unaffordable.
3. FBC is a donor supported, non-profit organization and the added expense to purchase equipment to provide captioning and train volunteers to run it would be a burden on the ministry at this time. Our current media ministry is provided through the help of one (1) paid worker and nearly thirty (30) volunteers. We currently have just enough staff to produce our current broadcast as it is. Adding closed captioning at this time would be a

burden to an already overworked primarily volunteer staff. It is broadcast locally and has no news value.

FBC wants to reach all people with the message of God's love through Jesus Christ. As an alternative to closed captioning, we will begin providing a more graphic intensive broadcast to aid the hearing impaired.

FBC respectfully requests that we be exempted from the closed captioning requirement for the above stated reasons. We may be reached at the physical and electronic addresses, telephone and FAX numbers listed on our letterhead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicholas D. Davis".

Nicholas D. Davis (nick@fbcshreveport.org)
Associate Pastor

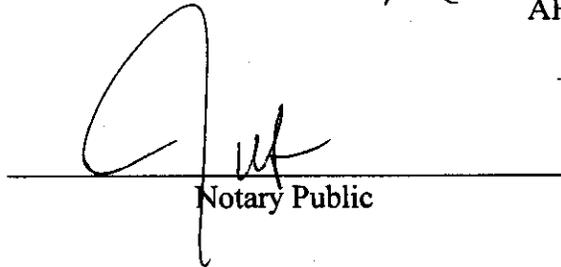
AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF CADDO

BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary Public, personally came and appeared, Nicholas D. Davis, who, after being duly sworn, did testify and say that the facts set forth in the Request for Exemption From Commissions Closed Captioning Rules are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.


AFFIANT


Notary Public

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