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OCT - 6 2006

FRIENDS...

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Here is an announcement of the FCC meeting.
(with the approach of the Cable TV workers.)

PLEASE GO TO THIS MEETING - VOICE YOUR OPINION - HELP PRESERVE, EXPAND and ASSURE THE FUNDING of PUBLIC ACCESS CABLE TV. (14 local stations, City-controlled Channel 35 and City-supported Channel 36)

I will go to this meeting - F.C.C. - TUESDAY afternoon - OCTOBER 3, 2006 - and would be glad to carry YOUR COMMENTS (in case, you won't be there).

These are my thoughts. Please respond with YOUR VIEWS and SUGGESTIONS.

1. Now that most of the 14 Cable TV studios of the City of Los Angeles are owned by one company (Time-Warner) there is much less competition in this area.
2. A merger between Time-Warner and Viacom is in process to permit this communications giants to market cell-phone, Cable TV & Internet communications as a profit-making package to the public.
3. Public Access Cable TV - which is the opportunity of YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL, community advocates, church groups, start-up entertainment groups, etc. to produce and present TV programs - only exists because of the governmental (in our case, the City government of Los Angeles) requirements.
4. The franchise between the Public Access TV stations and the City of Los Angeles expired several years ago and City "politics" has not "worked" to update and renew that contract.
5. Public Access TV is a "pro bono" (no profit but some expense) activity which the Cable TV companies are required by law to continue. It is understandable that these "for profit" companies would rather eliminate this drain on their profits but some in the Cable TV industry recognize their responsibility to the public and support continuation and expansion of Public Access to encourage new "blood" into the industry and foster true First Amendment-guaranteed public comment.
6. Public Access TV facilities are old, with decaying 20-30 year old (analog) equipment which is becoming more and more difficult to maintain and repair. This is the digital equipment age. Digital cameras, recorders and projectors make it simple, cheap and easy to record, edit and present all kinds of Public Access Programs.

A new, modern policy which supports the continued activities of the Public Access (P.E.G. = Politics, Education & Government) programming is needed. The F.C.C. should consider and, we hope, continue and expand policies which support Public Access TV activities and the ability of the "little guy" to get a start and have a say in our nation's communications systems.

Daniel Wiseman
Producer of Public Access Programs for the
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL Programs
(at the Chatsworth, Van Nuys, Eagle Rock, Hollywood,
East Los Angeles and West Los Angeles Studios)

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Friends:

This message regarding the F.C.C. hearings (tomorrow) is of importance to all of us who are producing and working on PUBLIC ACCESS CABLE TV projects and studios.

I have added the PUBLIC ACCESS CABLE TV concerns to this list of opinions.

Please send me your thoughts or be at these hearings to express yourself, directly.

Daniel Wiseman
Founder, Your Neighborhood Council
(producer of PUBLIC ACCESS CABLE TV projects)

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To: dfala@yahoogroups.com

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

From: "Lisa Pease" <lpease@gte.net>
Date: Sun, 01 Oct 2006 11:36:28 -0700
Subject: [DFALA] ACTION ALERT: Tell the FCC your concerns re the media

The FCC is conducting formal hearings on the subject of media ownership. They were in town recently for an informal meeting, and no doubt due to the interest displayed, have decided to take testimony from the public on this matter. This is your chance to ask for three things:

- 1) Ask the FCC to make stricter laws limiting how many media outlets one company can own. Right now six companies own nearly all the media in this country. See the chart at <http://www.mediachannel.org/ownership/chart.shtml>. (And see Take Back the Media - <http://www.takebackthemediacomowners.html> - for much more information.)
- 2) Ask for support for continued PUBLIC ACCESS Cable TV services. Ask that the equipment be modernized (currently they use decaying 20 - 30 year old "analog" cameras and editors and have little or no "digital" equipment. Ask that the staff be expanded and trained to assist fledgling producers in learning and producing appropriate presentations (neighborhood council reports and commentary, community activities, faith-based presentations, public information programs, "new" entertainment shows, etc., etc., etc.)
Background: "With the assumption of the 14 Public Access Studios in Los Angeles by Time-Warner and Time-Warner's negotiations with Voice-Over-Internet and Cellphone-Internet companies their may be a move to decrease or eliminate all Public Access. This would deny producers of "new" and "local interest" and "innovative" programs to learn their trades and deliver their messages to the public.
The Cable TV companies (Time-Warner included) are "for-profit" companies and it is understandable that they do not want the added expenses associated with the "no-income" Public Access activities. The creation and continuation of Public Access Cable TV has occurred because Federal and local governments have required these services as part of the ability (franchise) to do (commercial) business. Local and nationwide advocates of free and fair speech must convince the government agencies, including the F.C.C., to continue and solidify Public Access Cable TV services.
(added by Daniel Wiseman)

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