

Baptist Church
gh Road
unt, NC 27803

CG6-CC-0292



RECEIVED & INSPECTED
JAN 9 2006
FCC - MAILROOM

Closed Caption Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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CGB-CC-0292

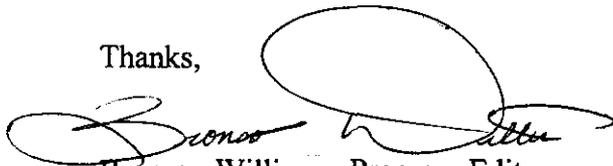
Ebenezer Baptist Church
652 Raleigh Road
Rocky Mount, NC 27803

FCC Closed Caption Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

To Whom this may concern,

I want to thank you in advance for taking this petition in consideration. Ebenezer Baptist Church programming is ~~locally produced and distributed non-news programming with no repeat value.~~ Enclosed is the original and two copies of our petition requesting an exemption based on the ~~undue burden.~~ If you require more information, please feel free to contact Dr. Thomas L. Walker or myself concerning this matter.

Thanks,



Bronson Williams, Program Editor
252.904.0093

Dr. Thomas L. Walker, Senior Pastor
252.446.2378

Ebenezer Baptist Church

652 RALEIGH ROAD
ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA 27803

DR. THOMAS L. WALKER, SENIOR PASTOR

Office Phone: (252) 446-2378

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Website: www.ebenezerbaptist.org

Pastor's e-mail: thomaslwalker2004@yahoo.com



December 20, 2005

Dear Petition Review Commission:

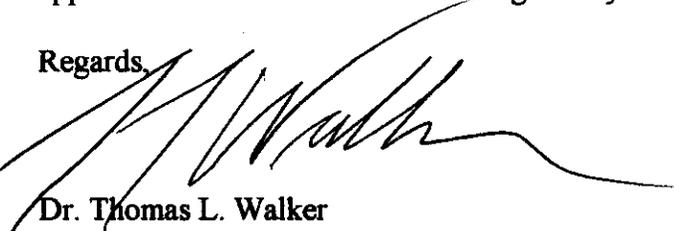
I am the Pastor of a non-profit religious organization with a 501(C) (3) status. Ebenezer Baptist Church has been apart of the Eastern North Carolina community for over 50 years. We have been involved in televised missionary ministry since 1970. We produce and distribute a half-hour weekly program that is generally viewer supported and has a tremendous impact in the Eastern North Carolina area where we are located.

I am writing to request an exemption of the Closed Captioning Requirements effective January 2006. This petition is not based on our lack of desire to have the captioning ability. In actuality, I feel that the ideal is truly a benefit to the viewers with physical challenges that would aid in receiving vital information. The station, "WNCT" as well as all other stations are being required to utilize the captioning technology. If the commission does not grant this petition for exemption, it will reduce our ability to use the outlets to further our mission. In discovering the requirement, I immediately began searching for a closed captioning company to assist us.

After a great deal research, I have found on average it would cost an additional \$450 weekly to add the necessary captioning to our broadcast. Generally the media ministry is viewer supported, the income has considerably help to reduce the expenses necessary to fund the operation. The increase in production cost would force us to limit our programming on many, if not all, of our television outlets. Also, our outreach is greatly involved in charitable projects for the underprivileged families. The additional annual cost of over \$23,000 for captioning is an undue burden at this time and would reduce our charitable obligations. We will utilize all the graphics and character generated information possible in each program to assure the viewers of our desire to assist them, making them aware of the program content.

Lastly, it is our desire to have closed captioning. The problem we face is insufficient resources to permit us to meet the requirements at this time. Therefore, please grant my request for exemption of closed captioning in 2006. If we are not able to obtain full exemption, please grant us a considerable extension to be in compliance. Feel free contact me if you have any questions. Your prompt assistance is greatly appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Regards,



Dr. Thomas L. Walker
Ebenezer Baptist Church, Senior Pastor

A Church Determined to Witness for Christ