

1 standard that the FCC is willing to accept on  
2 behalf of the people of New Jersey? Let's  
3 talk about that implicit standard. Are a  
4 station's public interest obligations truly  
5 satisfied if it simply broadcasts content that  
6 is of interest to people in the community of  
7 license? I would shudder to think what would  
8 happen if the FCC were to passively accept  
9 such a standard.

10 By this logic, presumably, a  
11 station could broadcast infomercials twenty-  
12 four hours a day. The station could then  
13 claim that their public interest obligations  
14 were satisfied if people in the community of  
15 license ordered up some Ginsu knives, or some  
16 Bowflex machines, or natural cures books.  
17 After all, would not such orders demonstrate  
18 that the programming was of interest?

19 If the standard of service to the  
20 community is that some New Jersey residents  
21 are interested in the contents of the  
22 station's broadcast, we may as well

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1 acknowledge that there are no standards in  
2 effect at all. In that case, the FCC would do  
3 well simply to auction off the licenses or  
4 sell them.

5 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

6 MS. REED: Thank you.

7 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very  
8 much. Mario Tapia?

9 MR. TAPIA: Good afternoon. First  
10 of all, I would like to thank U.S. Senator  
11 Frank Lautenberg and the FCC for this  
12 important forum and the opportunity to express  
13 ideals. My name is Mario Tapia. I am the  
14 president and CEO of the Latino Gerontological  
15 Center. This is a national nonprofit  
16 organization dedicated to improving the life  
17 of the Latino.

18 I have been a resident of New  
19 Jersey since 1973. My questions are has WWOR-  
20 TV invited us to participate in their  
21 community care programming? Has WWOR-TV  
22 provided us a space to publicly discuss the

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1 lack of access for the Latino elderly in the  
2 State of New Jersey? Does WWOR-TV understand  
3 and support our efforts as a nonprofit  
4 organization? The answer to all these  
5 questions is yes.

6 We feel that WWOR-TV has been  
7 fulfilling the public interest on the people  
8 matters in New Jersey better than any other TV  
9 station including WNJN and NJU's station. We  
10 have been relating to WWOR-TV for a long time.

11 We=ve been invited several times to their  
12 show LatiNation, and most recently to Real  
13 Talk. An important aspect of WWOR-TV  
14 programming for community affairs is that  
15 these shows are seen during prime time slots  
16 and not in the usual time of other TV stations  
17 for these types of programs. We strongly  
18 support the renewal of the license for WWOR-  
19 TV. Again, thank you.

20 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

21 Duda Penteado?

22 MR. PENTEADO: Thank you,

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1 committee, senator. My name is Duda Penteado.

2 I'm the chair of the Artist Certification  
3 Board of the City of Jersey City. I'm a fine  
4 artist. And I'm coming here to stand in  
5 support of Channel 9 and to thank Channel 9  
6 for the support of the Arts.

7 I'm a citizen of the United States  
8 for more than ten years and I live in this  
9 Jersey City for more than ten years as well.  
10 I have seen increasing coverage of Channel 9  
11 in the City of Jersey City, a few events like  
12 Liberty Science Center, the Arts Education  
13 Board, it was an important board that was  
14 seeking to give back to living artists.

15 In the waterfront of Jersey City,  
16 they have covered, and other events, as  
17 community events as well as hosting the  
18 president of New Jersey university to talk  
19 about the monthly development of the  
20 university and others. So I stand here to  
21 thank Channel 9 and the work with the Arts and  
22 the committee. And thank you to be covering

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1 more exciting news in Jersey City. Thank you  
2 very much.

3 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.  
4 Before I announce the next speaker, would the  
5 following people head to the nearest  
6 microphone, Daniel Schoenberg, Dock Russell,  
7 Marianne Hartman, Juan Nortez, Joseph  
8 Occhipinti, and Luis Diaz. Tom Dallessio?

9 MR. DALLESSIO: Good afternoon.  
10 Thank you very much. I'm Tom Dallessio. I'm  
11 a lifelong New Jersey resident. And I am the  
12 executive director of Leadership of New  
13 Jersey. I am proud of the work that the  
14 Leadership of New Jersey, Class of 2006 has  
15 created in a voice for New Jersey, but I am  
16 speaking as a private citizen for these  
17 comments.

18 I'd like to thank Senator  
19 Lautenberg, who is an honorary fellow of  
20 Leadership of New Jersey, and the FCC for  
21 holding this hearing in New Jersey and  
22 according New Jersey the respect we deserve

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1 and we've earned.

2 My9, I'm sad to say, isn't my 9.  
3 I do watch my Yankees, but that's about it.  
4 I'm disappointed in the news coverage. The  
5 critical issues of infrastructure, land use,  
6 education, and environment are never really  
7 covered in any substantive way.

8 New Jersey leads the way in open  
9 space preservation, and public transportation,  
10 and higher education. On rare occasion,  
11 coverage is at best sensationalistic; at  
12 worse, trite.

13 The people of New Jersey are  
14 smart, proud, and discerning. We have high  
15 incomes and we're highly involved. We deserve  
16 better. I ask the FCC, please, to set  
17 performance standards, set requirements that  
18 will set the standard for the rest of the  
19 nation for news, public affairs, political  
20 coverage, and spotlight on our leaders.

21 As I said, My9 isn't my 9, but it  
22 could be. They should want me to watch. They

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1 need to earn my watching the TV. This is the  
2 public airways. You have the opportunity to  
3 create a standard and I hope you will do that.

4 Thank you.

5 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

6 Kaili Baucum? Kaili Baucum? Daniel  
7 Schoenberg?

8 MR. SCHOENBERG: Hi, my name is  
9 Daniel Schoenberg. I'm a first-year law  
10 student here at Rutgers Law School, Newark,  
11 and I'm born and raised here in New Jersey.  
12 And I would just like to comment that I, too,  
13 am not a Channel 9 viewer because Channel 9  
14 does not show the programs that I wish it were  
15 showing.

16 We had four ballot initiatives on  
17 the ballot this past November and there was  
18 barely any coverage, barely any mention of the  
19 issues. We've had several recent scandals  
20 that involved -- that could have and should  
21 have involved investigative reporting by a  
22 local New Jersey channel such as our U.S.

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1 attorney being on the list of the attorneys to  
2 be fired. And then our senator being accused  
3 of housing violations and bribes, that was  
4 very minimally covered.

5 Any of the political news  
6 websites, there was no YouTube or Channel 9  
7 videos of investigative reporters talking  
8 about this, and that makes me sad that the  
9 channel that is supposed to be representing us  
10 isn't, you know, out there covering news that  
11 we want covered. Thank you.

12 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.  
13 Dock Russell?

14 MR. RUSSELL: Good evening. My  
15 name is Dock Russell and I live in Hackensack,  
16 New Jersey. I'm here to represent KCAP and  
17 the community. I want to take this time to  
18 thank the appreciation of Senator Lautenberg,  
19 the FCC Commissioners, and Channel 9, My9.

20 I've been living in Hackensack  
21 over the past four years and I've been there  
22 and basically been involved in organizations

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1 that they're at the level of communication PR  
2 and communication. And what we've noticed  
3 that whenever the why question comes up,  
4 somebody is going to get fired, in the Black  
5 community when you ask why, so a lot of people  
6 just ask why. But every now and then you've  
7 got to ask why things don't happen.

8 My first question is, are there  
9 any representatives from the Elks here or from  
10 the Masonics? You know, those are the  
11 organizations that are in the minority  
12 community that should have representation at  
13 something like this and should be recognized  
14 in the community by organizations such as My9  
15 or any other media organization.

16 What I'd like to see is I just  
17 have four basic things that I want to suggest.

18 I'm not here to criticize Channel 9 or  
19 critique them. I'm here to help guide them.  
20 Basically, what I'd like to see, I'd like to  
21 see them have a presence in the community. I  
22 would like to have them to create waves to

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1 become user friendly to the communities that  
2 are not tied in.

3 In the minority community where I  
4 come from, people, they say you can come, but  
5 people don't think you mean that when you say  
6 that. So you have to have, introduce a  
7 presence that suggests that it's real.

8 Another thing that I would like  
9 them to identify organizations or programs in  
10 the community that they can associate  
11 themselves with, if the community don't come  
12 forward. Now over my time, four years I've  
13 been there, I've been working in this state  
14 with a lot of organization. Thank you.

15 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very  
16 much. Marianne Hartman?

17 MS. HARTMAN: Hi, my name is  
18 Marianne Hartman. I'm Director of  
19 Communication, the Office of Radio and  
20 Television for the Diocese of Trenton, and I  
21 have two brief statements regarding religious  
22 programming on Channel 9.

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1           One is from James Goodness, who is  
2           the Director of Communication for the  
3           Archdiocese of Newark, who couldn't be here  
4           because he's out of town at a conference. And  
5           James Goodness said that there are many  
6           particularly older shut-in Catholics in  
7           northern New Jersey who feel the loss very  
8           strongly of a program like the Sunday mass on  
9           Channel 9, which was discontinued.

10           They do not have access to cable  
11           and, as a result, cannot get the mass unless  
12           they are up at 5:00 a.m. in the morning to  
13           view it on Channel 5, a New York based  
14           station. There is also a distinct void in  
15           service of religious programming that Channel  
16           9 used to fill. Similarly, many ethnic  
17           Catholic groups lament the fact that the  
18           ethnic programming in public affairs that  
19           Channel 9 used to offer has left them without  
20           an outlet to express their view to the larger  
21           community.

22           And also my statement, in addition

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1 to the discontinuation of the Sunday mass,  
2 Channel 9 also terminated the tri-state  
3 religious program, Point Of View. Each week,  
4 this program alternated point of views of the  
5 three main faith groups at the time, Judaism,  
6 Protestants, and Catholics.

7 They discontinued this program  
8 despite the fact that religious and government  
9 leaders wrote letters opposing it. Currently,  
10 Channel 9 does not provide free public service  
11 air time to religious groups or denominations  
12 here in the state.

13 I believe that Channel 9 could do  
14 a better service to its viewers by providing  
15 some of the fine religious programming  
16 produced here in New Jersey that would benefit  
17 the unique spiritual needs of the community.

18 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.  
19 Juan Nortez?

20 MR. NORTEZ: First off, thank you  
21 to the commissioners for coming here. I was  
22 asked when I came in here who do I represent.

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1 I have been a lifelong resident of Newark,  
2 proud of it, and I'm also equally proud that I  
3 started my business here.

4 But I've been in the broadcasting  
5 business for twenty-six years. And,  
6 fortunately, when I went through Seton Hall,  
7 my internship between Channel 4, Channel 9,  
8 and Channel 11. But my thing, my situation  
9 has been that I know what's happening on both  
10 sides. The problem is how do we best cover  
11 the community that surrounds us.

12 And that's important for Newark  
13 especially, because unlike what we have been  
14 hearing in the news, there is a lot more going  
15 good in Newark than the murders and the gangs  
16 than anything else. These are the things that  
17 need to come out. So we have to figure out  
18 what are the best ways of doing that.

19 And one of the -- in starting my  
20 business, which is in broadcasting, to try to  
21 do things on radio is that I went through and  
22 heard Commissioner Adelstein, who made a

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1 comment in closing a public hearing two years  
2 ago about what localism is supposed to be all  
3 about. That is something that I put up on my  
4 wall in the business. And we have to figure  
5 out how we best do that.

6 If My9 can't do it because they  
7 have a wide coverage, then we have to do  
8 something about radio. We have two radio  
9 stations in our community. That's illegal  
10 right now. They're operating from New York  
11 City, WNJR, which has the history, should be  
12 looked at, too, not just WWOR.

13 So that's, I needed to say that we  
14 need to have a public hearing on what is the  
15 attitude in the New York market and what will  
16 we best be able to do as far as localism in  
17 this area.

18 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.  
19 Joseph Occhipinti?

20 MR. OCCHIPINTI: I represent the  
21 National Police Defense Foundation, which has  
22 over 110,000 members and supporters, most of

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1 which are based here in the State of New  
2 Jersey. We're a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in  
3 Marlboro, New Jersey. And from a law  
4 enforcement point of view, it will be a  
5 tremendous loss for the New Jersey law  
6 enforcement community if the license for WWOR  
7 was not renewed.

8 I can tell you firsthand that on  
9 my Rolodex, when there is any law enforcement  
10 related things that have to be put out on the  
11 air, Steve Linden, who is one of the editors,  
12 is always there to assist the law enforcement  
13 community.

14 We run several programs. We run a  
15 state cop program which post a \$10,000 reward  
16 when any law enforcement officer is shot in  
17 the line of duty. We also run Operation Hits.

18 When we have missing children, we post  
19 rewards for the safe recovery. We also, in  
20 the interest of promoting positive police  
21 relations in the immigrant community, we fly  
22 anywhere in the world and bring back children

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1 for life-saving operations. In each and every  
2 one of these cases I've described, WWOR has  
3 been there and publicized it.

4 Now there has been a lot of  
5 controversy about coverage of New York related  
6 stuff. I can tell you that when there is a  
7 seizure that takes place or an arrest of a  
8 terrorist group in New York, it has an impact  
9 on New Jersey because the coverage of New York  
10 related law and criminal stories have an  
11 impact on Jersey residents.

12 Again I could tell you, I think  
13 you sent the message here to WWOR that perhaps  
14 they have to focus more of their attention.  
15 But as my counterpart in the Fire part has  
16 stated, they have been a tremendous source for  
17 the law enforcement community and I recommend  
18 the approval on their license.

19 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.  
20 Before I announce the next speaker, I'd like  
21 to call up the last six who had registered  
22 today, Jeannette Mistretta, Joseph Crooms,

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1 Wilbur McNeil, Larry Petrillo, William Terry,  
2 and Frank Scandale. Now Luis Diaz?

3 MR. DIAZ: Good evening,  
4 commissioners. My name is Luis Diaz. I'm  
5 president of the U.S. Hispanic Advocacy  
6 Association, which represents Hispanic  
7 consumers.

8 There are some facts that I just  
9 want to point out. These are good people and  
10 they've done good work, and we appreciate  
11 that. I live in New Jersey. I work in New  
12 Jersey. However, New Jersey is not on a level  
13 playing field when it comes to media coverage.

14 That is a fact.

15 It is also a fact that the  
16 minority communities within New Jersey, within  
17 the local representation and media coverage,  
18 are not adequately represented from our  
19 perspective. It is also a fact that we're not  
20 here to talk about charitable events or  
21 charitable outreach, but rather substantive  
22 media coverage. That's what this issue is

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1 about.

2 And, therefore, I am very  
3 concerned that the facts that were highlighted  
4 by the Eagleton Institute research, that they  
5 should weigh in our minds as highly relevant.

6 Specifically, as Senator Lautenberg  
7 mentioned, leading up to the 2005 elections,  
8 there were many localized elections to serve  
9 in coverage.

10 WWOR ran ten New Jersey election  
11 stories in the thirty days prior, nine of  
12 these were on the governor's race, thus  
13 providing effectively little coverage on the  
14 New Jersey elections.

15 When WWOR applied for a license  
16 renewal, they attached eleven exhibits. These  
17 were entitled service to New Jersey, covered  
18 eight years from '99 to 2006. The documents  
19 were to demonstrate commitment and it cited  
20 airing 13,054 New Jersey stories, 170 stories  
21 per year, fact; less than two stories -- less  
22 than one every two days, that is also a fact.

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1 New Jersey is going through an  
2 incredible period of transition. We are  
3 facing monumental problems as a result of a  
4 global economy, as a result healthcare issues,  
5 as a result of the budget crisis. This is the  
6 time. This is the window of opportunity to  
7 send a good message to our friends that they  
8 need to do more. Thank you.

9 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.  
10 Jeannette Mistretta? Jeannette? Joseph  
11 Crooms?

12 MR. CROOMS: Good evening,  
13 everyone. To our panel, we -- greetings from  
14 the Guardian Angels. Our illustrious leader,  
15 Mr. Curtis Sliwa could not be here today,  
16 asked that I would instead.

17 I'm attending in two forms of  
18 fashion. One, I'm a recent person that  
19 moved/migrated to New Jersey about four years  
20 ago. And I want to say to My9 that when I  
21 moved to New Jersey, I didn't know how to get  
22 around, and I didn't know where to turn. And

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1 then when I turned to Channel 9, My9 was  
2 there. And they sort of helped me get around.

3 So I speak as a father. I speak  
4 as a husband. I speak as a person that just  
5 moved to New Jersey. And I also would like to  
6 speak on behalf of the Guardian Angels, who  
7 we're going to be working in Elizabeth to help  
8 with the crime situation with the Board of  
9 Education system there.

10 I know that My9 will be there to  
11 make sure that our message gets out and that  
12 we will be able to do a quality job. So I  
13 would like to close by saying that from what I  
14 see and in the simplicity of My9, I think  
15 they're ready for the challenge.

16 I think that they're a  
17 professional team that is accepting the  
18 challenge. They're absorbing it. And I think  
19 that they should receive their license. And I  
20 think that this forum from all sides gave them  
21 the information that they needed to be the  
22 quality journalists that they are. Thank you.

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1 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

2 Wilbur McNeil?

3 MR. McNEIL: My name is Wilbur  
4 McNeil. I represent the Like It Is coalition.

5 It's a consortium of about twenty African  
6 American organizations in New York, New  
7 Jersey, and Connecticut.

8 We started on this, the Save It  
9 Like It Is program, but when we began to look  
10 at the media, we came to the conclusion that  
11 it was all based in terms of minority  
12 representation, so we filed petitions with the  
13 FCC and we have been calling for FCC hearings  
14 in Newark. And I didn't find out about this  
15 one until three o'clock.

16 But we've been calling for FCC  
17 hearings in Newark about the media all along.

18 We have submitted petitions to deny all the  
19 major networks their license because of the  
20 conditions that they treat minorities in our  
21 community. And I want to thank you.

22 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

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1 Larry Petrillo?

2 MR. PETRILLO: Good evening,  
3 members of the FCC Commission. I'd just like  
4 to say I'm the Director of the Division of  
5 Fire Safety. And I'm here not to make a  
6 recommendation for or against the license for  
7 WWOR, I'm here to provide some information  
8 that will hopefully help you in your decision-  
9 making.

10 We -- the mission of the Division  
11 of Fire Safety is to save lives and protect  
12 people from the horrors of fire. One of the  
13 ways we do that primarily is through  
14 education. And we have a great partnership  
15 with WWOR in helping us get that message out  
16 to the citizens of New Jersey on fire safety.

17 Whenever we have had incidents,  
18 for example, we had a multiple fatality of  
19 citizens in a hotel, we were able to reach out  
20 to WWOR and ask them if they would help us  
21 provide messages to the public that would help  
22 them when they go out on vacation or into a

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1 not familiar location.

2 We have also utilized them to help  
3 us get the message of fire safety to our  
4 children. They participate in our, what we  
5 call a FIRE bowl, which is an acronym for fire  
6 information, rescue, and education program,  
7 which is a college bowl type competition where  
8 we literally have hundreds of children  
9 participate in a competition on fire safety.

10 And the members of WWOR,  
11 specifically Harry Martin, has helped us get  
12 that message out to the citizens of New  
13 Jersey. We have also been able, had the  
14 opportunity to participate in Garden State  
15 Matters to get our fire safety message out.  
16 Thank you.

17 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.  
18 William Terry?

19 MR. TERRY: Hello, everyone. Good  
20 evening. It's a pleasure to be here today.  
21 First of all, I would like to acknowledge, of  
22 course, the Office of Senator Lautenberg, and

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1 all his members and staff members, and of  
2 course the FCC for being here as well and for  
3 having this public hearing.

4 I'm originally from New York, but  
5 now I live in Ancora, New Jersey, so getting  
6 used to being out here and living in the State  
7 of New Jersey. The points I'd like to raise  
8 are the need for improved media coverage,  
9 definitely, in the State of New Jersey, and  
10 some of these points have been brought out  
11 already.

12 Although one of the most affluent  
13 and densely populated states in the nation,  
14 New Jersey is one of the only two states  
15 without a VHF network television affiliate.  
16 This deficit is all the more remarkable in  
17 light of the following.

18 New Jersey has the second highest  
19 per capita income in the nation. When  
20 analyzed by race and country of origin, New  
21 Jersey is the most demographically diverse  
22 state in the nation. That in itself includes

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1 a huge responsibility on the part of Channel 9  
2 News and the complete Channel 9, My9 WWOR-TV  
3 organization because you have to look at each  
4 community differently and you have to be able  
5 to show both sides, not just the negative  
6 things that happen through a series of social  
7 problems that people could be experiencing,  
8 but all the positive things that have been  
9 going on in these communities, but as well as  
10 the cultural programs, education, and the  
11 needs of those communities. It has to be  
12 looked upon as on a wide scale, from a state  
13 and local level, and the neighborhoods.

14 Vermont, the nation's second  
15 smallest state by population, has two network  
16 affiliates, White River Junction, population,  
17 2,600. It is home to Vermont's NBC affiliate.

18 Now, of New Jersey's 566 municipalities, 466  
19 have more people than White River Junction.  
20 That is a gross, gross disparity. The State  
21 of North Dakota ranks forty-eight in  
22 population.

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1 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

2 MR. TERRY: Yet, it is home to  
3 nine network affiliates. I'll just say that  
4 Channel 9 needs to do a lot more before the  
5 FCC renews this subsidiary.

6 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very  
7 much.

8 MR. TERRY: They should consider  
9 reorganizing everything. Thank you so much  
10 and have a great evening.

11 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.  
12 Frank Scandale?

13 MR. SCANDALE: Thank you. It's  
14 Frank Scandale. And I'm the editor of The  
15 Record. And since I was going to be on the  
16 video, I thought I'd come down and see how I  
17 was going to look. And I've got some work to  
18 do.

19 I can't speak to Channel 9's past.  
20 I can only talk about their present  
21 commitment to local news. We're based in  
22 Hackensack. We serve north Jersey. We are

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1 dedicated to local news. And earlier this  
2 year, we went out seeking partners, electronic  
3 partners, and I can say Channel 9, as well as  
4 their sister station, Channel 5, reached out  
5 immediately and we began to form a  
6 partnership, sharing news.

7 Our desks, our news desks and  
8 their news desks have regular conversations  
9 during the week. We discuss stories. We tell  
10 them the most important things we think that  
11 they should be covering that they can't get  
12 to. As a newspaper, we have over 250  
13 journalists working in our newsroom.

14 A lot of electronic media envy  
15 that kind of resource. I can tell you,  
16 personally, that Lew, earlier, a couple of  
17 years ago when he was with Channel 2, reached  
18 out to The Record to do the very same thing  
19 for Channel 2. So I know from the top, the  
20 commitment to do local news and do it well is  
21 ingrained in the operation, and down to Steve  
22 Linden and his team.

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1           And so I'm just here to say I know  
2           it's working. I don't know what's happened in  
3           the past. But if I had this opportunity every  
4           once in a while to hear my viewers, my readers  
5           come out and tell me how passionate they are  
6           about what's going on, what they want to hear,  
7           what they want to see, I know that the team is  
8           taking this to heart. The team is here,  
9           they're listening. I know they're going to  
10          walk away with a better understanding of what  
11          their readers -- what their viewers need.  
12          Thank you.

13                    MODERATOR SIGALOS:        Thank you.  
14           I'd like to thank all those who commented  
15           publicly today. This does conclude the Media  
16           Bureau's public forum on the WWOR-TV license  
17           renewal. Thank you for your attendance and  
18           your participation.

19                                    (Off the record.)  
20  
21  
22

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