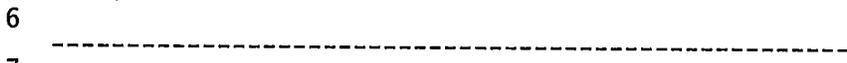


Session 1

1 FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
 2 MEDIA OWNERSHIP, TAMPA-ST. PETERSBURG  
 3 FOURTH PUBLIC HEARING  
 4 VOLUME I  
 5 (Pages 1 - 196)



8 DATE: Monday, April 30th, 2007  
 9  
 10 TIME: 4:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.  
 11  
 12 LOCATION: Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center  
 13 Louise Lykes Ferguson Hall  
 14 1010 North W. C. MacInnes Place  
 15 Tampa, Florida 33602  
 16 MODERATOR: LOUIS SIGALOS, Federal  
 17 Communications Commission  
 18 Chief of The Consumer Affairs  
 19 and Outreach Division, Consumer  
 20 and Governmental Affairs Bureau  
 21 REPORTED BY: Elida T. Hager, R.P.R.  
 22 Notary Public, State of  
 23 Florida at Large

\* \* \*

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1

PROCEEDINGS

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MR. SIGALOS: Thank you very much for  
being here, and welcome to the Federal  
Communications Commission's Fourth Public  
Hearing on Media Ownership.

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First, I do want to thank the Tampa Bay  
Performing Arts Center, who is so graciously  
hosting us today. And before we begin with our  
first panel, we do have a few opening remarks.  
And I'd like to start by asking the mayor, who  
I think is here, Pam Iorio, to come and say a  
few words before we move on.

MAYOR IORIO: Thank you.

Chairman Martin and Members of the FCC  
Commissioners, I welcome you to the City of  
Tampa. I know you'll have a great public  
hearing.

There are many members of the public here  
to speak and a very prestigious and respected

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20 panel from the media. And we welcome you to  
21 our great city.

22 We're so pleased that you selected Tampa  
23 as a venue to solicit public input on media  
24 ownership. I wish you well as you go on into  
25 the afternoon and on into the evening. Thanks

6

1 again for visiting our city. (Applause.)

2 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER COPPS: Good afternoon.

4 Thank you--all for welcoming us here to Tampa  
5 this afternoon. Thank you, Madam Mayor, for  
6 your cordial welcome.

7 As some of you know, I once lived in this  
8 wonderful area. Actually, I'm a graduate of  
9 Northeast High School in St. Petersburg.  
10 (Applause.)

11 That was quite a few years ago, to be  
12 sure. But the welcome we've gotten here shows  
13 that Thomas Wolfe was really wrong. You can go  
14 home again. And I am glad to be home again.

15 But tonight -- or today -- isn't about a  
16 stroll down memory lane. It's really about our  
17 future, yours and mine. And this meeting is  
18 part of a remarkable grass-roots dialog that  
19 began almost five years ago and which can  
20 now -- if you and I do our jobs right -- help  
21 us create a better media environment all across  
22 this land of ours.

23 What we're here to do is to learn from  
24 our two distinguished panels, but even more  
25 importantly, from you in this audience, how you

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1 think this area's media is doing in serving  
2 you, because media has a solemn obligation to  
3 do that.

4 Because you own the airwaves -- you and  
5 you alone. No business, no broadcaster, no  
6 special interest owns an airwave in the United  
7 States of America. (Applause.) They're yours.

8 The broadcasters do get the privilege of  
9 using those airwaves, and in return for a  
10 license they pledge to serve the public  
11 interests, to bring you good local news,  
12 information and entertainment, to bring you a  
13 diversity of issues and cultures and viewpoints  
14 and to provide entertainment that reflects your  
15 diversity, interests and creative genius.

16 So I'll be looking here today to  
17 understand your history and your experiences  
18 and your satisfaction or dissatisfaction with  
19 your current media environment.

20 Now, I know that the Tampa-St. Petersburg  
21 area is one of a dramatically diminished number  
22 of metropolitan areas that still has two major  
23 and competing newspapers. Of course, this is a  
24 huge and diverse area with many different  
25 interests, and there's a lot here for even two

8

1 newspapers to cover. And I'm interested to  
2 learn if you think that this is one big area or  
3 if it's more differentiated than that.

4 To me, competition in journalism is

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5 really coined of the realm. Recently I had the  
6 privilege of appearing on a Columbia University  
7 of Journalism school panel with one of my  
8 heroes, Walter Cronkite.

9 He told us a little story that I -- it'll  
10 take a minute but I think it merits telling  
11 here. Because it gets to what competition in  
12 journalism means; and that, of course, includes  
13 broadcast journalism.

14 "My first job was with the Houston  
15 Press," Cronkite told us, "and our competitor  
16 was the Houston Chronicle. We each put out  
17 several editions a day. And each time the  
18 Chronicle put out a new edition, a copy boy ran  
19 eight blocks to its loading dock to bring back  
20 a copy, literally hot, or at least warm, off  
21 the press.

22 My editor would then spread it out on his  
23 desk to compare what they'd written with what  
24 I'd written. And I can still hear him holler  
25 out, 'Cronkite, the Chronicle spells this guy's

9

1 name S-M-Y-T-H. We've got it S-M-I-T-H. Which  
2 one is it?' Or 'The Chronicle says it was 1412  
3 Westheimer Street. We say it was 1414. Who's  
4 right?' "That kind of check" -- and this is  
5 still Mr. Cronkite -- "that kind of check on  
6 our work several times a day sure made us  
7 better reporters.

8 But how many towns have that kind of  
9 newspaper competition anymore? Most towns  
10 today have only one newspaper. And the result

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11 is just what you'd expect. The accuracy in  
12 this reporting isn't the same anymore."

13 Now imagine for a moment that either the  
14 Times or the Tribune went away, and the  
15 remaining paper, now a monopoly, also owned  
16 eight radio stations, three television  
17 stations, cable channels and the largest local  
18 Internet site; what would happen to the quality  
19 of your media then? What would happen to the  
20 diversity of voices?

21 Right now Latinos and African-Americans  
22 in Tampa comprise almost 50 percent of the  
23 population. We need to be asking how local  
24 coverage is meeting the needs of these and many  
25 other diverse communities. My guess is we need

10

1 to do a better job of it, a much better job.

2 You know, minorities are now nearly a  
3 third of this country's population. But people  
4 of color own just 3.2 percent of full-power  
5 commercial television stations and only about  
6 2 percent of all the broadcast assets.

7 Could that be why maybe minority  
8 interests and issues don't get covered very  
9 well?

10 Could it be this is why minorities are so  
11 often caricatured and stereotyped in news  
12 stories?

13 Our media have an obligation to reflect  
14 this country's diversity. They have an  
15 obligation to nourish this country's diversity.

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16 And it's a job that is not getting done.

17 (Applause.)

18 Take the elderly. We don't usually think  
19 of our seniors as a minority group. But talk  
20 about a group being disadvantaged,  
21 disenfranchised by big national media. These  
22 are folks who treasure news about the  
23 communities that they live in, who value news,  
24 and actually go out and vote.

11

25 And I'm joining those senior ranks now,

1 and I know firsthand something is missing and  
2 something has been taken away.

3 Getting back for a moment to the world I  
4 asked you to imagine, where there are few  
5 corporate giants owning all the major outlets;  
6 that's exactly the world that former FCC  
7 Chairman Michael Powell envisioned three years  
8 ago, when he rammed new rules through the  
9 Commission to loosen the few remaining  
10 controls we have against further  
11 consolidation.

12 what he didn't expect was that three  
13 million people would contact the FCC to voice  
14 their outrage. Congress joined in, and then  
15 the U.S. Court of Appeals decided those rules  
16 are badly flawed and sent them back to us --  
17 to us here.

18 Lesson Number 1: Citizen in action can  
19 still make a difference and even carry the day  
20 provided, it's passionate, organized and  
21 determined (Applause.)

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22 Lesson Two: With the FCC having all  
23 these rules teed up again in front of us, the  
24 need for citizen vigilance is just as urgent.  
25 But there's a difference this time. We can

12

1 aim higher now than three years ago. We don't  
2 need to play just defense. We can start  
3 playing offense.

4 We cannot only defeat bad new rules,  
5 although we still must do that, but now we're  
6 in a position to revisit some of the bad old  
7 ones that got us into this mess in the first  
8 place (Applause.)

9 A VOICE: Yeah. That's right.

10 COMMISSIONER COPPS: And we can go on  
11 from there to restore meaningful public  
12 interest responsibilities to our broadcast  
13 media.

14 For starters, let's go back to an  
15 honest-to-goodness licensing system that  
16 doesn't grant slam-dunk renewals but stops to  
17 ask if a license holder is really doing its job  
18 of serving the public interests (Applause.)

19 COMMISSIONER COPPS: All license holders  
20 have to do now is basically send in a  
21 postcard. And that's it. And let's do this  
22 license renewal every three years, the way it  
23 used to be, and not every eight years, like it  
24 is now.

25 (Applause.)

13

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1 Let's also put what stations are doing to  
2 actually meet their public interests  
3 obligations up on the web, so citizens can know  
4 how their airwaves are being used.

5 And then let's make sure that all this  
6 new digital capacity we're giving broadcasters  
7 return something positive for our communities  
8 and local talent and civic-issues coverage.  
9 (Applause.)

10 If your local broadcasters can multicast  
11 half a dozen program streams, is it too much to  
12 expect that some good portion of that be used  
13 to enhance localism and diversity?

14 So these are the kinds of things that we  
15 all need to be talking about. And I'll bet  
16 there are some other ideas out here in this  
17 audience, too.

18 Let me conclude with a brief thank you to  
19 the many representatives of the community that  
20 are here today, representatives from the Latino  
21 and African-American and other communities, all  
22 kinds of community-based public interest  
23 groups, labor unions, seniors who have been  
24 disadvantaged and disenfranchised by excessive  
25 consolidation, consumers and broadcasters, too.

14

1 I am always happy when broadcasters do  
2 come out and participate in dialogues like  
3 this. I only ask my broadcaster friends to  
4 focus today on the issues at hand. We want to  
5 learn about how you're using the airwaves to  
6 enhance the public interests. And many of them

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7 indeed are.

8 But unfortunately -- and I want to say  
9 this carefully -- at a recent hearing like  
10 this, most of the broadcaster presentations  
11 focussed on how they let their celebrities take  
12 time off to support worthwhile charities and  
13 how the stations donated to these charities.

14 Now, I love those charities. So don't  
15 misinterpret what I'm saying. Our country has  
16 a long proud history of corporate charitable  
17 giving. But that's not the issue for our  
18 attention here today. So I urge them to focus  
19 on the matters of localism and diversity and  
20 competition that's reflected in how the  
21 airwaves are used. (Applause.)

22 I'm sure there are other groups I've  
23 unintentionally forgotten to thank. But I'm  
24 glad all of you are here. Most of you are  
25 from Tampa-St. Petersburg. But I know others

15

1 have come from across the state to this only  
2 hearing the FCC will be holding in Florida.  
3 Personally, I wish we had more such events so  
4 people wouldn't have to travel so far.

5 This issue of media consolidation has  
6 been my top priority since I joined the FCC six  
7 years ago. I know there are many critically  
8 important issues troubling America right now,  
9 issues of peace and war, finding and keeping  
10 good jobs, making sure families have health  
11 insurance, educating our kids, creating equal

Session 1

12 opportunity.

13 And for individual members of this  
14 audience, one of those issues may trump all of  
15 the others. But here's my message to you:

16 Even if media consolidation is not your  
17 number one issue, it ought to be your second  
18 most important. And that's because all of  
19 those other issues you care about are  
20 increasingly funnelled through the filter of  
21 big media.

22 Well, if you're happy with how your  
23 number one issue is being presented and  
24 discussed as they come through that funnel,  
25 fine, you don't have to listen to a thing I'm

16

1 saying.

2 But if you think that that big issue  
3 might just benefit from a little more diversity  
4 of viewpoint and a little more competition,  
5 then you need to get involved. And there's no  
6 litmus test to getting involved. You could be  
7 conservative or liberal, Democratic or  
8 Republican, red state or blue state.

9 So I thank you-all for being here, and I  
10 look forward to hearing from you. This is an  
11 issue that I have seen take root all across  
12 this broad and diverse land of ours. It's an  
13 issue, really, of democracy. I like to call it  
14 "Media Democracy." I like the ring of that,  
15 don't you?

16 A VOICE: You bet.

17 (Applause.)

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18 COMMISSIONER COPPS: Thank you.

19 MR. SIGALOS: Mr. Adelstein.

20 COMMISSIONER ADELSTEIN: Well, thank you.

21 It's great to be here in Tampa Bay. And I  
22 appreciate the welcome from Mayor Iorio and  
23 what a great group of panelists we have here  
24 today and, of course, most importantly, all of  
25 you for taking the time to come out.

17

1 All the many organizations that help let  
2 you know about it, thank you--all so much.  
3 'Cause it's really all about hearing from you  
4 and finding out what's happening here in Tampa  
5 Bay.

6 What is going right now with the media,  
7 what you think could be done better, how the  
8 decisions we make affect you. Because nobody  
9 knows better than you.

10 You're the best jury, you're the real  
11 experts and the people out there in this  
12 community, you listen to the radio, you watch  
13 TV, you read the newspapers. That's what we  
14 want to hear about.

15 I'm especially interested in hearing  
16 about how different communities feel about how  
17 their issues are treated; for example,  
18 Commission Copps talks about seniors, how older  
19 seniors feel their issues are being handled in  
20 the media.

21 You have a large Hispanic population  
22 here, issues of concern to -- to the way you're

Session 1

23 being treated in ways that you consider to be  
24 sensitive to -- to the real issues with respect  
25 to responsiveness. I just want to know, are

18

1 you happy with the media that you have here in  
2 Tampa Bay today.

3 A VOICE: No, I'm not.

4 COMMISSIONER ADELSTEIN: Well, that's --  
5 we want to hear more detail. If it's yes,  
6 that's good too. But you -- it's amazing what  
7 you can say two minutes.

8 We've gone across the country and heard  
9 such incredible eloquent people in such a  
10 short period of time. And I know it's  
11 constricted, but we're going to stay here to  
12 listen to each and every one of you until  
13 you're done.

14 (Applause.)

15 And Tampa's not just a little media  
16 market. This is one of the biggest markets in  
17 the country and one of the biggest -- not the  
18 biggest -- but the first biggest in Florida.

19 And just like in other cities, large and  
20 small, across the United States, it seems from  
21 the studies that I've seen that a handful of  
22 companies dominate Tampa Bay TV and radio.

23 Studies show that in television, two  
24 media companies control half of the total  
25 revenue. In radio, three companies own almost

19

1 half of all commercial radio stations in the  
2 Tampa market and control nearly 90 percent of

Session 1

3 the revenue.

4           Only four companies control 73 percent of  
5 Tampa's local news market; and one of those  
6 companies alone controls a third of the market.  
7 As alarming as these numbers are, Tampa's one  
8 of the better markets in the country, if you  
9 can imagine that, in today's -- based on  
10 today's very concentrated standards.

11           You're one of the few markets in the  
12 country, as Commission Copps mentioned, that  
13 has two big viable home newspapers. There's  
14 also a great study (sic) here on Cox ownership.  
15 I'd like to hear your views on how well the  
16 joint ownership of a newspaper and a television  
17 station is going here.

18           It's our job to implement your rights to  
19 diversity. That's what the rules tell us to  
20 do. That's what the law tells us to do. The  
21 Supreme Court has told us that you have the  
22 right to receive and share in diversity of news  
23 -- of news and information, music.

24           And our ownership rules are supposed to  
25 promote competition, localism and diversity,

20

1 not just preserve the bare minimum. And what  
2 better way to find out whether the media's  
3 fulfilling your expectations than to come here  
4 and talk to you about how well the media's  
5 doing.

6           We shouldn't say that we certainly know  
7 better inside the beltway than you do about

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8 what's in your interests. And the law says the  
9 public interest -- that's what we're here to  
10 serve, the public interests, not the interests  
11 of the media giants that we oversee.

12 (Applause.)

13 And whatever disagreements you might hear  
14 today about the rules, certainly there should  
15 be no disagreement that this issue is really  
16 about our democracy. And fundamental to that  
17 is the "Uninhibited marketplace of ideas," as  
18 the Supreme Court called it.

19 And by controlling the information you  
20 receive; you really see how it impacts your  
21 culture, the politics, the ideas that get  
22 exchanged here. And the airwaves do belong to  
23 you. And you're the ones that came out to  
24 reclaim them here tonight. I'm so glad you  
25 did.

21

1 The Supreme Court expressed your right to  
2 receive suitable access to social, esthetic,  
3 moral and other ideas and experiences. I'm  
4 quoting now from the Court. Now, everywhere  
5 you go, there's a profound impact by media  
6 consolidation, not just here in Tampa.

7 Nationally, you see, five media  
8 conglomerates control 80 percent of the  
9 prime-time market.

10 And our last attempt by -- as a  
11 Commission, in 2003, to modify the rules  
12 would've only made the situation worse; rather  
13 than only 73 percent of the Tampa market local

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14 news, the top firms would've likely increased  
15 their share to 85 percent.

16 Fortunately, three million people  
17 contacted the FCC, from the far left to the far  
18 right and virtually everybody in between, to  
19 say that's the wrong direction to go. And in  
20 2004, the Federal Court agreed that sentiment,  
21 sending the rules back to us to start from  
22 scratch.

23 They said we failed to consider how the  
24 proposed rules would affect minority and women  
25 ownership, failed to consider the impact on

22

1 competition and localism. I couldn't agree  
2 more. So I hope that this time around, with  
3 your help and your input here tonight, that we  
4 can get these media ownership rules right.

5 I hope -- promote minority ownership,  
6 promote the public interest and diversity. And  
7 I fully realize we're going to hear a good  
8 debate tonight about how the media landscape  
9 had been evolving and how our rules should keep  
10 pace with the times.

11 But it's too easy just to say, "oh, they  
12 can get on the Internet" or -- or "we need to  
13 own more outlets."

14 Repurposing one local newspaper story on  
15 radio and TV doesn't do a lot for the quality  
16 of journalism, it doesn't do anything for  
17 diversity, and I don't think it helps localism  
18 a bit; and it can harm the small business

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19 competitors.

20 It's more difficult to diversify, be  
21 innovative, become competitive on new news  
22 media platforms. But that's what we need to  
23 see media doing, rather than simply try to  
24 gobble up more and more local outlets.

23 25 And sometimes media companies have been

1 slow to grasp this changing landscape. And,  
2 frankly, it's wrong to play the blame game on  
3 the media-ownership rules that are intended to  
4 serve the public interests as the reason for  
5 the failure to develop profitable business  
6 models on new platforms. I'm glad that these  
7 companies are trying to create new and more  
8 dynamic online presences. But they have more  
9 work ahead of them.

10 And the fact of the matter is that  
11 broadcasting, along with newspapers, still  
12 dominates the media today. Study after study  
13 shows that broadcasting and newspapers are the  
14 dominant source of local news and information.

15 And the broadcast industry still  
16 produces, disseminates, locally controls news,  
17 information and entertainment programs that  
18 most inform, the debate, the discourse and the  
19 free exchange of ideas in this country and this  
20 democracy.

21 Local news websites don't provide a  
22 viable source for competition, unless they're  
23 owned by these major outlets. When you look  
24 at, where do you go to when you go to the

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24 25 Internet, you go to the local newspaper.com or

1 your local TV station.com. And a study that  
2 was done by Free Press of the market here in  
3 Tampa bears that out.

4 It found that independent websites in  
5 Tampa don't produce nearly enough original news  
6 to attract enough audience or generate enough  
7 revenue to compete effectively with the  
8 traditional news media outlets and websites.

9 As a matter of fact, the studies show  
10 that only 3 percent of the stories on  
11 independent Tampa-focused websites contained  
12 original reporting of any kind on hard news  
13 topics, such as crime or education or what's  
14 happening in local government.

15 And you know that from your own personal  
16 experience. There's not a lot of news there.  
17 I know people are trying. But the fact is,  
18 you've got to go to the newspaper. That's  
19 where the journalism is. People don't want to  
20 be their own editors, they don't want to be  
21 their reporters. They expect the journalists  
22 to do that for them.

23 And that's happening nationwide. Just  
24 last week I was reading in the Wall Street  
25 Journal, an NBC Wall Street Journal poll found

25

1 that despite all the efforts taken by political  
2 campaigns to try to get their message across on  
3 the Internet, only 2 percent of those polls

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4 said that they get most of their 2008 news from  
5 blogs or candidate websites.

6 Our job is to promote the public  
7 interest, not the interests of these media  
8 giants we oversee. And we've always done that  
9 by promoting diversity, localism and preventing  
10 underconcentrations of power in the media  
11 industry.

12 I'm saying we need to continue that  
13 tradition that has been so long held by the  
14 FCC. You deserve what the law already  
15 requires, programming that serves the unique  
16 needs of your local communities.

17 So before drafting any media-ownership  
18 rules, we wanted to hear from you. We wanted  
19 to come right here to Tampa and find out what  
20 you have to say. So we came here to hear from  
21 you.

22 So I'm going to sit down and be quiet and  
23 listen, 'cause I'm anxious to hear what you  
24 have to say. Thank you for coming out this  
25 evening or afternoon.

26

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. SIGALOS: Commissioner Tate.

3 COMMISSIONER TATE: Mr. Chairman, and  
4 thank you to the Mayor, so much, for hosting  
5 us here at this beautiful Performing Arts  
6 Center and being here in the beautiful Tampa  
7 Bay Area.

8 And I'll be brief and just say that we  
9 are all thrilled to be here in Florida and in

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10 one of the most thriving technology centers in  
11 the whole state as well as the largest media  
12 centers of the state.

13 I am one of the new commissioners. And,  
14 so, this is the first time that I've had the  
15 opportunity to be part of the hearings going  
16 around the country. And I'm looking forward to  
17 hearing from you-all, as my colleague said,  
18 about both the good and the bad.

19 This is one of those interesting areas  
20 where both the Tampa Tribune and the  
21 commonly-owned WFLA is one of the 40  
22 grandfathered newspaper broadcast combinations  
23 in the country.

24 And, so, it does provide us a very unique  
25 opportunity to see how that's worked and see

27

1 how the combinations have a positive or a  
2 negative impact.

3 I do want to also thank our staff. They  
4 go on the road with us, and they make all of  
5 these meetings go well and easily. And I  
6 appreciate all of their hard work.

7 I continue to consider the issues that  
8 are raised throughout our media-ownership  
9 proceedings with an open and inquiring mind.

10 And it's especially important that we do  
11 take into consideration those of you-all who  
12 represent minority communities, and especially  
13 the "I Generation," those -- those of you who  
14 are like my children, who've been raised on the

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15 Internet, so that we hear how you receive your  
16 news information and entertainment anywhere,  
17 anytime.

18 The rules that we create and craft will  
19 be the rules that are with us for a long period  
20 of time. So I'll move forward. A thank you to  
21 the panel here and our second panel as well.

22 And I looking forward, especially, to  
23 hearing from those of you who've come to speak  
24 on media ownership in your communities. Thank  
25 you.

28

1 MR. SIGALOS: Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. SIGALOS: Mr. McDowell.

4 COMMISSIONER MCDOWELL: Thank you,  
5 Mr. Chairman, and thank you for hosting us  
6 here in Tampa-St. Pete, the 12th largest media  
7 market in the country, home of the Buccaneers.

8 And being native of the Washington, D.C.,  
9 area, with the performance of our football team  
10 last year, I feel your pain. But you had a  
11 great draft yesterday, so hope springs eternal.  
12 Best of luck to you-all. I know things are  
13 going to be great for you.

14 In our three prior hearings on broadcast  
15 ownership in Los Angeles, California,  
16 Nashville, Tennessee, and Harrisburg,  
17 Pennsylvania, we heard the perspectives of  
18 musicians, broadcasters, reporters, actors,  
19 writers, professors, and hundreds of citizens,  
20 who are the true owners of the airwaves.

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21 I look forward to hearing from you this  
22 evening about how our ownership rules affect  
23 you as viewers, listeners, business people and  
24 members of this terrific Community.

29

25 The debate over broadcast ownership  
1 concerns the vitality of our democracy and the  
2 appropriate balance among competitive  
3 efficiencies, diversity of voices and local  
4 focus.

5 I've learned quickly, being a new  
6 commissioner along with Commissioner Tate --  
7 not around for the last debate on this. But  
8 I've learned quickly that this debate elicits  
9 the opinions and passions of people from all  
10 walks of life, from all over America.

11 And we need the firsthand knowledge that  
12 only you can provide about the sources you rely  
13 upon for news, information and entertainment,  
14 so that we can analyze today's media  
15 marketplace and determine if our rules should  
16 change, and if so, how.

17 To our panel and our audience members,  
18 thank you for being here today and for  
19 participating in our hearing, which is really  
20 your hearing. And I will very much value your  
21 input.

22 And without further adieu, because I want  
23 to leave more time to hear from you--all than  
24 for you to hear from me, I'll pass it along.  
25 Thank you.

30

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1 (Applause.)

2 CHAIRMAN MARTIN: Good afternoon  
3 everyone. And thank you, to Tampa, for  
4 hosting us.

5 Actually, my father-in-law lives here in  
6 Tampa, and so we -- my family and I -- visit  
7 here frequently. And he's not very shy about  
8 complaining to us -- to me -- about the media  
9 and FCC policies. So if that's any indication,  
10 I'm sure it'll be a lively debate here tonight.

11 The -- as you've heard from all of the  
12 Commissioners, this is our fourth in a series  
13 of six media-ownership hearings we'll be  
14 holding. And I want to thank you-all for  
15 participating and joining us tonight.

16 This is a -- this is really a critical  
17 and important process, and it couldn't be  
18 accomplished without hearing from you and your  
19 active participation.

20 When we've had the previous hearings,  
21 both in Los Angeles and in Nashville and  
22 Harrisburg, we've had a lively -- we've had a  
23 lively debate, and I anticipate that we will,  
24 as well, tonight.

25 And so I, again, want to thank you-all

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1 for your public input. And that's going to be  
2 so critical as it goes forward. However, the  
3 decisions that we are going to make about  
4 ownership are very difficult, and they are as  
5 difficult as they are critical.