

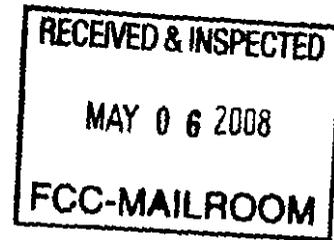
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JOE

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

April 28, 2008

Power to the People
P.O. Box 60251
Nashville, TN. 37206



RE: Complaint Against Television Station franchise, Channel 4 WSMV, Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Commissioner Martin

I am a representative of Power to the People, an African American social justice organization in Nashville, Tennessee. We are writing to express our support for the recently adopted localism rules to improve the accountability of broadcasters who are supposed to use the public airwaves to serve the news and informational needs of their communities. Media consolidation has reduced localism and the diversity of voices in cities and towns across the country. Many broadcasters place serving their own financial interest over serving the public interest.

The new rules are designed to and are bringing greater transparency to the ways in which broadcasters are serving the diverse and local needs of their audiences. They are about holding the broadcasters accountable to communities for the programming that they air, now we need to let them work.

These proposals are common sense and fundamental to broadcasters' obligation to serve their local community interests. They represent extremely modest attempts to address the growing concerns of American citizens across the country who experience and fear the loss of local voices on their airwaves, the disappearance in coverage of local civic information, and the decreasing amount of original programming that speaks to diverse community needs.

We are also writing to especially complain about the refusal to serve the Black community (1/3 of the population of the city) by Nashville, Tennessee's media, especially Channel 4 broadcast television licensee, WSMV-TV. Power to the People has been trying for months to get the station and others to put before viewers information about the deaths of two juveniles here in Nashville/middle Tennessee area (dating from 2005 and 2007), and the recent revelations about 502 cases of abuse of juveniles in state-run facilities, among 13,000 cases nationwide, contained in an Associated Press article of March 3, 2008 which got both national and regional publicity. Yet, none of the local electronic media, radio or television, would even report one word on it. We have had several press conferences since December 2007, and most of the local electronic media refused to even come. Those stations that did send representatives, including Channel 4, will then turn around and refuse to air their reports. They act as if the lives of our youth don't matter, and we resent this greatly.

We have filed complaints about the treatment of juveniles in local facilities to the Department of Justice for investigation, have filed requests for an inquest of the two juveniles who have died in custody to the State Medical Examiner, and held a political demonstration on April 26, 2008. None of this is deemed newsworthy by WSMV station owners or management, apparently considering that it is not something their (white) viewers would like to be apprised of. They failed to report anything we have done. Thus, we feel that they are not meeting the needs of the entire community, practice racially segregated

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Yet they continue to stereotype and criminalize Black youth with lurid articles are about youth crime, gang violence, and other criminal violations which they routinely associate with African Americans. We are either all criminals, or we do not exist. This is racist slander, propaganda, and unprofessional behavior, and we wish to challenge the license renewal of this station.

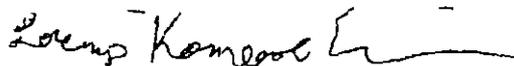
WSMV especially, more than any other local broadcasters, has gone out of its way to slander the Black community and its youth. In one instance, it joined with a lone local Black person, to publicize his desire to hold a November 1, 2007 "march against crime", they had this information on their website for several months. They have given air to other so-called "marches against crime" in the black community, but they do not cover the majority white community in such a prejudiced fashion. While refusing to air any information about the deaths and mistreatment of Black youth in juvenile facilities, they publicly hold our children up to public ridicule or demonize them. We demand that they follow these new regulations and be more responsive to the Black community as part of the larger community, create a local community media advisory board, and print this complaint letter and others on their website, as provided for by the regulations.

In addition, WSMV does not have any minority/African American local originated public affairs programming. All they concentrate on is network programs, syndicated shows, and movies. This is unacceptable, and we intend to press them for not only a show that we produce, but also for 10-12 hours per week of local/community programming. This lack of local programming clearly shows that they are not meeting the needs of minority communities, or seeking to unleash new or diverse voices.

Commissioner Martin, from our perspective you have done a great thing here, please protect these new rules and also use your regulatory powers to allow the public to hold TV broadcasters accountable to their communities. We want each of the major media in the Nashville, Tennessee to follow these new regulations, and not continue to ignore minorities and our interests. There is obviously a serious need for it. We cannot thank you enough for passing these regulations.

If you wish to reach myself or our organization for follow-up to this complaint, please call (615) 720-5468 or send email wish to also meet with WSMV station officials to convey our concerns over this matter, and demand that they improve. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Lorenzo Komboa Ervin,
Vice President, Power to the People
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Nashville, TN 37208
(615) 720-5468