

Okeechobee County Public Library
206 S.W. 16th Street
Okeechobee, Florida 34974-6116
Telephone: 863-763-3536
Fax: 863-763-5368

March 23, 2009

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

RE: REQUEST FOR WAIVER

Entity Number: 127896
Form 470 Application Number: 654790000707216
Form 470 Application Identifier: OKE 470 09

Ms. Dortch,

I am submitting a REQUEST FOR WAIVER for the Form 471 deadline under the “special circumstances when a deviation from the rules would serve the public interest” aspect of WAIVER REQUESTS. I am a new Library Director at the Okeechobee County Public Library and I am in the process of learning the E-Rate deadlines and procedures. I filed the appropriate Form 470 but missed the Form 471 deadline window through inexperience with the process. I received the Form 471 Filing Reminder letter from USAC during the week of 3/16/09 to 3/20/09, which is after the filing window closed. The envelope does not contain a postmark of when it was actually mailed but the letter inside states January 22nd, 2009.

The reason that I am requesting a WAIVER REQUEST is that the Okeechobee County Public Library has received a \$21,524, which is a 12.84% cut in State Aid Funding in the current fiscal year due to the poor economy. All Florida libraries have been hit hard with budget cuts in State Funding and the Okeechobee Library is facing possible layoffs in the 2009-2010 fiscal year. In contrast, our Patron Usage and Circulation amounts have increased 16%! Every penny that can assist the Library in maintaining service to the public is precious. The approximately \$1,800.00 which would be provided to the Library through the 2009/2010 E-rate funding is invaluable in helping the Library provide services to the public.

Please consider a ONE-TIME WAIVER of the Form 471 application deadline rule so that I may seek E-rate funding which the Okeechobee County Library critically needs during this economic depression. With the assistance of Katherine, an Embarq E-rate customer service agent, I have applied online for the weekly USAC E-rate newsletters that assist with providing E-rate schedules and deadlines. This service will be invaluable in helping me, as a new Library Director attempting to learn the E-rate process, to meet all deadlines in the future and never have to apply for a WAIVER REQUEST again.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,
Kresta L. King
Library Director
Okeechobee County Public Library
kresta@myhlc.org