

Subject: Future of Media Workshop this Thursday - No Focus on Minority Media Exclusion and Under-service

Date: Monday, March 1, 2010 11:57 PM

From: David Honig <dhonig@crosslink.net>

To: "Hon. Julius Genachowski" <julius.genachowski@fcc.gov>

Cc: "Hon. Michael Copps" <mcopps@fcc.gov>, Henry Geller <henrygeller@comcast.net>, Robert Ratcliffe <robert.ratcliffe@fcc.gov>, Angela Campbell <campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu>, Eric Klinenberg <eric.klinenberg@nyu.edu>, Jane Mago <JMago@nab.org>, Andy Schwartzman <andys@mediaaccess.org>, Dan Brenner <dlbrenner@hhlaw.com>, Christopher Guttman-McCabe <cguttman-mccabe@ctia.org>, Ben Scott <bscott@freepress.net>

March 1, 2010

Hon. Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

RE: Future of Media Workshop – March 4, 2010

Today the Commission announced the agenda for the Future of Media Workshop being held this Thursday. The minority community was not included.

The NOI does ask some of the key questions facing minorities and the media (DA 10-100, rel. 1/21/10, Qs. 4 and 36; Q. 4 asks, inter alia, "[w]hat are the implications for the availability of news and information in minority communities?") But the panels include no specialist on these vital questions. (One of the 18 panelists, Srinandan Kasi, is a person of color; he represents the Associated Press.) Absent are any representatives of the civil rights organizations that have fought an epic battle for inclusion and diversity in the FCC-regulated industries since the NAACP first protested "Amos & Andy" in 1951. Nor does the program include scholars focused on why minorities are still the nation's most media-underserved populations, why the majority of daily newspapers still don't hire minority journalists, or why the Sunday morning talk shows still almost never include minority guests or interviewers.

The past nine years of FCC inattention to racial justice in media and telecom made it necessary for 23 national organizations – virtually the entire national civil rights movement – to write to you February 16 to ask why the Commission failed in 2009 to vote on any of the dozens of pending minority ownership proposals,

restore EEO enforcement, require advertising nondiscrimination compliance, mandate multilingual EAS, investigate PPM, or even comply with the Congressional market entry barriers reporting requirement in Section 257. We stated that:

we know that you share our concern for the fact that minority ownership and employment in our industries are *de minimis* and in many respects nearing extinction. Minority television ownership has decreased by 50% since 1999. Minority radio ownership has declined by 9% just within the last three years. Minority wireless and cable system ownership levels are near zero. Finally, minority [English language] radio journalism employment has plummeted to less than 1%, a level not seen since 1950.

We were looking to the Future of Media proceeding to focus attention on this crisis at a time when the Commission's limited enthusiasm and initiative in addressing minority issues has left many civil rights organizations frankly skeptical about whether the Commission would protect minority consumers and cyberentrepreneurs under a system of network regulation.

I am copying our friends and colleagues who are on the program, and by this letter I am respectfully encouraging each of them to let you know if they share our concerns.

I am sorry to have to be so direct, but in light of the short time between now and Thursday I want to be sure this oversight gets your attention.

Sincerely,

*David Honig*

David Honig  
President and Executive Director  
Minority Media and Telecommunications Council  
3636 16th Street N.W.  
Suite B-366  
Washington, D.C. 20010  
Tel: 202-332-7005  
Fax: 202-332-7511  
<http://www.mmtconline.org>  
[dhonig@crosslink.net](mailto:dhonig@crosslink.net)

cc: Hon. Michael Copps  
Henry Geller, Esq.  
Robert Ratcliffe, Esq.  
Angela Campbell, Esq.  
Dr. Eric Klinenberg  
Jane Mago, Esq.  
Andrew J. Schwartzman, Esq.  
Daniel L. Brenner, Esq.  
Christopher Guttman-McCabe, Esq.  
Ben Scott