

May 1, 2011

Marlene Dortch
FCC
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected
MAY 9 2011
FCC Mail Room

PETITION TO DENY

RE: FCC File No. BALEDT-20110401AC

Dear Secretary Dortch:

I wish to object in the strongest possible terms to the proposed sale of WMFE television to Daystar/Community Educators of Orlando by licensee holder Community Communications and its CEO Jose Fajardo. I am a longtime member of this and three other Public Broadcasting stations. I put my resources where my interests and values lie, and have done so for decades. I rely upon the cultural and educational contributions of public television, and I know many in the community who feel the same way as I do.

No one here doubts that WMFE has some financial problems. These problems are mostly self-inflicted through incredibly poor management decisions and as the result of actions of CEO Jose Fajardo. The Board of Community Communications is handpicked by the CEO, and they share his hostility to cultural programming. In a previous decision this Board and the CEO eliminated cultural programming from the radio station in favor of a 24 hour newsformat, and now they intend to eliminate real television access in the Orlando area by selling off its television license to a religious broadcasting network. This move will leave the Orlando area, especially north of downtown, with virtually no PBS programming. The public was not part of the decision process. Mr. Fajardo's Texas connection with Daystar was given a clear track to the purchase, the very purpose of public broadcasting was undermined, and Orlando suffers.

Only in the worst sense was this a business decision. Daystar gets what is essentially a no-bid deal. Those who hate public broadcasting get an ideological victory. The Public gets cheated.

The FCC has a responsibility to stop this sale. Licensee holder Community Communications should indeed get out of the "culture business" –but not this way. The station should be awarded to a responsible community organization in the public interest. Let's get this right.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry J. Ward". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Barry" being the most prominent part.

Barry J. Ward

630 N. Tuxedo Ave

DeLand, Florida 32724