



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

June 2, 2014

Dale Morrison
Message For Today
PO Box 10253
Cedar Rapids, IA 52410

Re: Case Identifier: CGB-CC-1176
CG Docket No. 06-181
Petition for Closed Captioning Exemption
Dismissal of Petition

Dear Mr. Morrison:

This letter concerns your Petition for exemption from the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) closed captioning requirements.¹ The FCC's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (Bureau) advises you that, for the reasons stated below, your Petition is dismissed as incomplete and you must begin providing closed captioning for the programming that is the subject of your Petition within 90 days of the date of this letter, or **by September 2, 2014**. For your convenience, enclosed is a copy of the Public Notice announcing the dismissal of your Petition. As explained further below, your Petition is dismissed without prejudice and you may file a new petition for exemption.

The programming that is the subject of your Petition has been exempt from the FCC's closed captioning requirements since your Petition was first filed.² On August 9, 2012, the Bureau placed your petition on public notice for comment.³ After reviewing the comments received in response to your Petition and similar petitions, the Bureau determined that it required additional and updated information to enable it to determine whether your programming should be exempt from the FCC's closed captioning requirements because captioning such programming would be economically burdensome to your organization. Accordingly, on September 26, 2013, the Bureau sent you a letter requesting additional and updated information regarding your Petition. The letter stated that, unless you submitted the required information and materials outlined in the Bureau's letter by October 28, 2013, the Bureau would dismiss your Petition.

On October 28, 2013, you submitted some but not all of the additional and updated information requested by the Bureau's letter. Specifically, you did not satisfy the following requirements.

- Your financial resources.
 - Information about all income and all expenses for your organization, as follows:
 - A statement of all income (cash receipts) and all expenses (cash disbursements) for the two most recent completed calendar or fiscal years. Cash receipts include money received from all sources for your entire organization, not just the

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 79.1.

² 47 C.F.R. § 79.1(f)(11).

³ *Request for Comment: Request for Exemption from Commission's Closed Captioning Rules*, Public Notice, DA 12-1309, 27 FCC Rcd 9268 (2012).

video program(s). Cash disbursements include money paid for purchases, expenses, and settlement of obligations throughout the year for your entire organization, not just the video program(s). List, describe, and provide the dollar amount for each type of cash receipt and cash disbursement for the two most recent completed calendar or fiscal years. Cash receipts and cash disbursements may each be subtotaled. You must provide a total net dollar amount (sometimes called a surplus or deficit, or profit or loss) for all cash receipts and all cash disbursements.

You provided a "Financial Report" with a running balance from your checking account for the period from November 8, 2011 through December 13, 2012 (approximately one year). This information does not satisfy this requirement, because it does not provide a statement of all income and expenses for the two most recent completed calendar or fiscal years.

- Audited financial statements or an accountant's compilation of financial statements for the two most recent completed calendar or fiscal years. If such statements are not available, provide complete federal income tax returns, including all attachments, for your organization for the two most recent completed calendar or fiscal years. If your organization is a sole proprietorship, provide personal tax returns for the two most recent completed calendar or fiscal years. Redact (black out) sensitive information, such as account numbers and social security numbers, before submitting personal tax returns or other documentation.

The "Financial Report" does not meet the requirements of either an audited financial statement or an accountant's compilation of financial statements and, therefore, does not satisfy this requirement.

- Information about the current assets and current liabilities of your overall organization, as follows:

- A statement of all current assets and current liabilities of the overall organization as of the last day of the two most recent completed calendar or fiscal years. List, describe, and provide the dollar amount for each type of current asset and current liability so listed. This requirement may be satisfied by providing complete balance sheets as of the last days of the two most recent completed calendar or fiscal years.

You provided only one balance sheet (not two balance sheets) with current assets and liabilities as of October 22, 2013, which is not the last day of a completed calendar or fiscal year. This information does not satisfy this requirement.

- Current assets are any asset (or resource) as of the last day of the calendar or fiscal year that can be converted into cash within the following year.
 - Examples of current assets for an individual or sole proprietor: cash; checking accounts; savings accounts; investment accounts including money market accounts; certificates of deposit and bonds that will mature within one year; stocks; and trust/endowment account amounts available for that year.

- Examples of current assets for a corporation: cash; accounts receivable; inventory; marketable securities; and prepaid expenses.
- Current liabilities are obligations (or debts) as of the last day of the calendar or fiscal year that must be paid within the following year.
 - Examples of current liabilities for an individual or sole proprietor: any loans (principal and interest) and mortgage payments (principal, interest, taxes, and insurance) due to be paid within one year; the balance of any credit cards as of the last day of the year; and unpaid bills as of the last day of the year (utility bills, and medical bills).
 - Examples of current liabilities for a corporation: accounts payable; accrued liabilities; notes payable; current portion of long-term debt; and taxes payable.
- Additional sponsorships. Verification that you have sought additional sponsorships (other than from your program distributor) or other sources of revenue. State your efforts to obtain such revenue, and whether these requests were accepted or rejected. If rejected, state whether you do not otherwise have the means to provide captioning. If accepted, describe the assistance that each sponsor has offered to provide. If your organization is precluded from seeking outside assistance or you cannot solicit and/or accept such sponsorships, provide the reason why you are unable to do so.

You state that "[d]ue to the small size of our organization we have not been able to obtain any type of outside sourcing to obtain financial or technical assistance in providing the requested services by the FCC." It is not clear from this statement whether you have sought additional sponsorships or other sources of revenue for closed captioning and, therefore, it does not satisfy this requirement.

Accordingly, your Petition is dismissed as incomplete. You must begin providing closed captioning for the programming that was the subject of your Petition within 90 days of the date of this letter, or **by September 2, 2014**.

Because your Petition is dismissed without prejudice, you may file a new petition for exemption from the FCC's closed captioning requirements. If you file a new petition, the programming that is the subject of the new petition will again be exempt from the FCC's closed captioning requirements while the new petition is pending. The Bureau will assign a new case identifier number to any new petition that you file. For more information about filing a new petition, including instructions for new electronic filing requirements, please visit <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/economically-burdensome-exemption-closed-captioning-requirements>. Your new petition must provide the FCC with up-to-date and complete information and must contain all of the information, materials, or documents necessary to support your request. Your new petition may not incorporate by reference any information, materials, or documents that you have previously submitted to the FCC.

If you have questions pertaining to this letter or to the filing of a petition for exemption, please contact the FCC's Disability Rights Office at captioningexemption@fcc.gov.



E. Elaine Gardner
Attorney, Disability Rights Office
Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau

cc: Commenters to Petition

Enclosure