

Statement Supporting Approval of the Assignment Application

I, Michael G. Hubbard, President of Auburn Network, Inc., under penalty of perjury, provide the following statement in support of approval of the application for assignment of Auburn Network, Inc.'s FCC Licenses to the entity established by Frank Lee Perryman, Auburn Networks, LLC. The following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge:

Sole Individual Ownership and Auburn Network, Inc. and Stations:

I am President and the 100% owner of Auburn Network, Inc., licensee, or permittee of construction permits, of the Stations included with the Form 314 Assignment application and the Asset Purchase Agreement. They are: Station WGZZ(FM), fac. id. 15283, Waverly, AL; Station WANI(AM), fac.id. 63796, Opelika, AL; FM translator Stations W254AY, fac. id. 138347, W294AR, fac. id. 141199, W242AX, fac. id. 146140, pending application for a new translator station construction permit, file no. BNPFT-20180327ABZ, fac id 201389, Auburn, AL, and a construction permit (unbuilt) for WHBD-LD, fac. id. 185816, Auburn, AL, (the "Stations").

Past Record as an Owner and Licensee:

Since 1997, throughout my 23 years of ownership of radio entities as an FCC licensee, neither I nor any of my radio station licensee entities have been cited for violations of the Rules and Regulations of the Commission or the Communications Act.

Further, other than the non-broadcast violations of State law set forth in the state court decisions, disclosed to the Commission since the initial local court action, concerning me as an individual, in my lifetime I have not been charged with any criminal conduct of any type.

Exemplary Broadcast Record of Service to the Public As An FCC Licensee:

I am also proud to be able to say that during my stewardship, the Stations have had an exemplary broadcast record of serving the public and received many awards reflecting that service. In brief, these include:

Station WANI has received the Alabama Broadcasters Association prestigious *Radio Station of the Year* twice, in 2009 and again in 2016. This award, which is presented to only one station per year and includes radio stations in all market sizes, is in recognition for quality of broadcasts and service to the public. WANI is one of only two radio stations in Alabama to have won the award twice.

Auburn Network, Inc.'s radio Stations have won 32 total Alabama Broadcasters Association ABBY awards in the following categories:

Best Talk Show (11 times); *Best Regularly- Scheduled Newscast* (9 times); *Best Local Sports Show* (4 times); *Best Morning Show* (2 times); *Best Local Personality* (2 times); *Best Local Sportscaster* (2); *Best Local Election Coverage* (1); and *Best Radio Station App* (1). The most recent wins were in 2020 for *Best Talk Show*, *Best Local Sports Show* and *Best Regularly-Scheduled Newscast*.

As two examples of local service, the Stations cover the *Auburn City Council* meetings live twice a month; the *Mayor's Annual Report* for both Auburn and Opelika and his stations regularly broadcast live "local" election coverage, which is a rarity. The Auburn Network Stations' *Morning Shows* include live, in-studio local guests each weekday.

Important Continuation of the Stations' Exemplary Service to the Public:

As I am totally withdrawing from ownership and management of the Stations, and will no longer be in broadcasting, it is important to me that the Stations continue the service they provide to the local communities. The Assignee, which is owned 100% by Lee Perryman, will do so. He has his own exemplary broadcast record as an independent owner/operator of several radio stations elsewhere in Alabama, as *Broadcaster of the Year* and in the *Broadcast Hall of Fame* in Alabama among other awards. He is on the *Board of Visitors of the College of Communications* at the University of Alabama and had a renowned career nationally and worldwide with the *Associated Press* ("AP") rising to important executive positions before returning home to acquire his first radio station in his hometown of Sylacauga, AL, a station where he worked when a teenager. Mr. Perryman's stations were Alabama's *2017 Radio Station of the Year*; *Alabama's Best Morning Show* of 2016, 2019, and 2020; he was the Alabama Broadcaster's Association's *2014 Broadcaster of the Year*; and winners of other prestigious *ABBY Awards* in 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020. Among his stations is one in Waverly, AL, in the Auburn-Opelika market which has had an antenna space lease on a tower we built and is a competitor to the Stations. I have been able to observe Mr.

Perryman's broadcasts, community service, and good character and know of his excellent statewide reputation, all of which is why I chose Mr. Perryman as the proposed assignee. He will ensure the Stations continue to serve the residents in the local communities.

Stations' Employees Can Continue to be Employed in the future with the Assignee:

There is another reason why the proposed assignee is the right choice. Mr. Perryman will hire all 13 employees of the Stations. Were the assignment not granted and the Stations not continue, these employees would be out of work with their families suffering. The Stations' market is small giving the employees no real alternatives. I care about my employees so the commitment of Mr. Perryman to enable the employees to continue at the Stations after assignment and support their families is important to me.

Purchase Price will be used to Pay-Off Creditors:

As reflected in the Asset Purchase Agreement in Schedule 2, the Purchase Price totaling \$775,000 will be used in its entirety to pay debt of creditors. Also, the balances will slightly vary by the Closing Date but in no event would any of the \$775,000 Purchase Price not be used for payment of debt.

As evident the largest amount \$730,424.41 will be paid to Auburn Bank for two debts, \$697,652.32 and \$35,672.09. Next, \$41,662.70 to be paid to NMAC for a debt on an Auburn Network, Inc. Stations' automobile. Schedule 3.1 of the Asset Purchase Agreement details certain of Seller's debt to be assumed by Buyer: \$24,787 for necessary broadcast equipment to No. TX Credit Banclease Acceptance/First Foundation Bank, \$27,000 for leases for Fuller Towers as to certain of the Stations, and \$13,195.90 in debt to BBVA Compass for the Stations' promotion vehicle.

It never occurred to me that I would withdraw from ownership and management of the Stations, as I now am doing, in a manner that I and my family are not able to receive a reasonable profit as a reward of my many years of hard work building the Stations to their recent heights in programming and service, but at least, with the foregoing Purchase Price, I can take care of creditors who had faith in me and make them whole.

Grant of the Assignment Application will serve the Public Interest:

For all of the facts and details set forth above, I sincerely hope that it is evident that approval of the assignment application will truly serve the Public Interest. Approval will permit continuation of service of the Stations to the residents of the local communities, payment of innocent creditors directly and through assumption of debt, and continued employment of the Stations' employees.

By 
Michael G. Hubbard, President, Auburn Network, Inc.

September 10, 2020