

2019 DEC 11 PM 2:25

BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

Accepted / Filed

DEC 10 2019

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

In re)
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DWNBN(AM))
Meridian, MS)
Facility ID No. 22294)
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)

File No. BR-20120210ABF

To: Office of the Secretary
Attn: The Commission

COMMENTS

Friends of WNBN ("Friends") hereby submits its comments in support of the October 1, 2019 Application for Review submitted by Eddie J. Rackley, Administrator and Jimmie L. Hopson. In support, Friends respectfully submits the following:

Background

In a June 20, 2018 Letter Ruling, the WNBN renewal application was dismissed on grounds that the application was improperly filed since the licensee had died prior to the filing. The Commission concluded that the license had expired by its own terms on June 1, 2012.

Reconsideration of the Letter Ruling was filed on July 24, 2018. The reconsideration request contained, *inter alia*, the following:

“The licensee, Frank Rackley, Jr., died on January 25, 2011. Unfamiliar with Commission procedures and rules, the renewal was filed. Yes, the renewal was filed in the name of the deceased, but it was signed by the decedent’s brother, Eddie Rackley, who would ultimately be approved by the court as the administrator of the estate.

In approving the testamentary papers, the Judge was obviously unaware of the need for FCC approval. Furthermore, it appears that, at some point, the need for approval of Eddie Rackley as administrator became known. Unfortunately, the filing of the notice of consummation was not readily apparent.”

The pending October 1, 2019 Application for Review (“AFR”) points out that ultimately communications counsel was retained. Discussions with Commission personnel ensued looking toward a reinstatement of the renewal to allow for amendment and filing of the consummation of BAL-20171207ABE. In addition, subsequent to that, an FCC Form 314 would be filed to assign WNBC to Jimmie L. Hopson.¹

Argument

Friends fully supports the relief requested in the pending AFR. In addition, attached to the instant submission are letters of support from a multitude of organizations and individuals located in Meridian, Mississippi. Collectively the letters emphasize the importance and value of

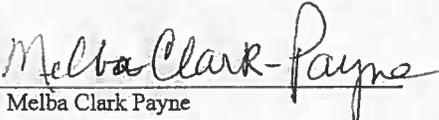
¹ Also requested in the Petition for Reconsideration and the AFR was the need for a methodology to file an STA to permit the continued operation of WNBC.

WNBN to the Meridian community and, in particular, the black community. The letters also serve as an endorsement of Mr. Hopson, an African American.

Conclusion

It is urged that the Commission reinstate the WNBN renewal and allow Mr. Hopson to properly proceed to effectuate the acquisition of WNBN.

Respectfully submitted,


Melba Clark Payne
Friends of WNBN

September 27, 2019

TO: FCC Administration
455 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WNBN Radio Station, MS
Meridian, MS 39301
Jimmie L. Hopson, Owner

FROM: Shelia C. Jackson
Pastor, Faith Miracle Temple Church
1316 17th Street PO BOX 8264
Meridian, MS 39301 Meridian, MS 39305

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Jimmie L. Hopson, owner, of WNBN Radio Station in Meridian, MS. I have known Mr. Hopson for the past eighteen years. For the past five years, this radio station has reached a diverse culture of listeners, and has made a positive impact on the listening audience as well as the community as a whole. Mr. Hopson's relentless and unwavering efforts to provide a service to the Meridian community have been a positive force to the city of Meridian.

Keeping the WNBN radio station will continue to uplift the community and bring positive change.

Sincerely,



Shelia C Jackson
Pastor, Faith Miracle Temple Church

Chancery Court

TWELFTH CHANCERY DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
CHARLES E. SMITH, CHANCELLOR, PLACE 1
P.O. BOX 388
MEGAN WILSON, COURT REPORTER
TAWANNA WRIGHT, COURT ADMINISTRATOR
OFFICE PHONE 482-8729

Meridian, Mississippi

39302

To - FCC

10-3-2019

Re: Jimmy Hopson

Dear Sirs:

Mr. Hopson has asked if I would write a letter of recommendation on his behalf. I am certainly glad to do so.

I have known Jimmy for many years in a professional capacity. As an attorney, I would from time to time assist him in legal matters related to his businesses. He was always courteous, respectful, honest and straightforward.

I know that he has been operating the local a.m. radio station, WBNB - 1290 for quite some time. This station has been a service and benefit to the people of our community. I along with many other political candidates were able to use this station as part of our campaign efforts, both Democrat, Republican, and independent.

I hope this letter will assist Jimmy in his licensure application procedure with your agency. Should you need anything further from me, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Smith

Uni-Fam Publishers

621 Obie Clark Drive
Meridian, Mississippi 39301
601-527-7022

October 4, 2019

FCC Administrator
445-12th Street, SW
Washington, D. C. 20554

RE: Letter of recommendation for Jimmie L. Hopson, Owner of Radio Station WNBN

Gentlemen or Ladies:

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Jimmie L. Hopson, owner of Radio Station WNBN. I have known Jimmie for more than half a century, first as his teacher in junior high school, and later when both he and I became entrepreneurs.

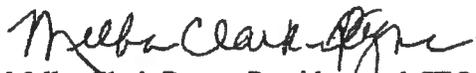
Jimmie is a perfect example of a person who pulled himself up by his bootstraps. In his early twenties, he started his own business as a service station owner to which he later added a towing service. When the previous owner of Radio Station WNBN passed away and the station was on the verge of collapse, Jimmie rescued it by redeeming it from bankruptcy.

WNBN provides a valuable source of entertainment and information for the African American community in Meridian and surrounding areas. For those who enjoy "Down Home Blues" during the week, WNBN is the place to set your dial. The station also provides religious music and inspiration on Sunday morning. Sunday afternoon offers an opportunity for community leaders to inform the listeners of the political, social, economic, and civic issues and concerns of the time. As the only African American-owned station in East Mississippi, WNBN offers the listeners an opportunity to hear uncensored opinions of specific problems and solutions from the city and county.

Jimmie Hopson's "Get Up & Go" attitude and accomplishments so impressed the Meridian/Lauderdale County Branch NAACP that he was awarded *Entrepreneur of Year* in 2015. He has a reputation of help and concern for the citizens of Meridian.

As his junior high school English teacher of many years ago, now retired and the owner of two businesses myself, Uni-Fam Publishers, and Cedric D. Clark Memorial Funeral Home, I am an advertiser on his station and a constant drive-time listener. Having Radio Station WNBN is a blessing to the Meridian/Lauderdale County African American community. There is no other station in this area that provides the opportunities that WNBN offers. It is my sincere hope that Mr. Hopson will be able to resolve whatever issues are thwarting or threatening the continuation of our beloved WNBN.

Yours truly,



Melba Clark Payne, President and CEO
Uni-Fam Publishers, and
Cedric D. Clark Memorial Funeral Home

Linda Scarbrough
2017 43rd Avenue
Meridian, MS 39307
October 4, 2019

FCC Administration
445-12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE:WNBN Radio Station
Meridian, MS
Jimmie Hopson, Owner

To All Concerned:

I am Linda Scarbrough a retired elementary school teacher. I have lived in Meridian, MS basically all of my life.

I along with others in the city, were happy to have WNBN return to the air. Learning that it was being run by Mr. Jimmie Hopson reassured us that it would be done properly and would be beneficial to all communities in and around Meridian. It is an asset because it provides spiritual as well as secular music; it provides information for communities; it also provides opportunities for businesses and others to connect with communities.

Mr. Jimmie Hopson is a dedicated, reliable, and responsible family man, businessman, and citizen of this area. He is known and respected by many.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Scarbrough". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Linda Scarbrough".

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THE CHRISTIAN NEWS

SERVING THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

CLARKE - LAUDERDALE - JASPER- WAYNE - JONES—ALABAMA



P.O. Box 501 Quitman, MS 39355 Phone: (601-776-3584 - E-Mail: JHOLTTCN@AOL.COM

October 7, 2019

TO: FCC Administration

RE: WNBC Radio Station
Jimmie Hopson, Owner

This letter will serve a testament that WNBC Radio Station is a very valuable asset to the community in Meridian, Mississippi and surrounding areas, reaching a wide variety of listening audiences plus information keeping everyone abreast of events in the area.

For the past 24 years, we, at the Christian News have vastly benefited through this Radio Station, and would certainly appreciate it remaining as a vital part of this community.

Its importance is irreplaceable.

In God we Trust: WNBC Radio Station is a Blessing to the area.

Julie Holt, Publisher
The Christian News

**ROBERT M. MARKHAM
323 45TH STREET
MERIDIAN, MS 39301**

OCTOBER 7, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Mr. Jimmy Hopson was and still is a lifesaver for the Black Community in East Mississippi and West Alabama and many other areas. There was a time when we really thought we were going to lose the only truly black radio station in the area. A station that we could afford to purchase advertisements, get donated time for worthwhile fundraisers, church services for the sick and shut-in and important events like voter registration information and public meetings.

We would like to thank Mr. Jimmy Hopson for the purchase of the station and would like to encourage the FCC to continue to grant and renew the license of Mr. Hopson's station.

If you have any questions, please call me, Robert Markham, at (601) 490-4222. I may also be reached via email at Markham1906@aol.com.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Markham



MERIDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI 39302-0870

October 9, 2019

Committed to Excellence

Executive Director:
Ronald J. Turner, Sr., PHM
601-693-4285
Fax: 601-693-4491

Board of Commissioners:
Wilbert Jones, *Chairman*
Donnie Smith, *Vice Chairman*
Jeanelle Kidd, *Commissioner*
Rob Arline, *Commissioner*
Gregory Lane, *Commissioner*

MHA DEPARTMENTS:

Finance & Administration
601-693-4285, Ext. 226

Executive Assistant & HR
601-693-4285, Ext. 228

Asset Management
601-693-4285, Ext. 223

Tenant Selection & HCV
601-693-2800, Ext. 224

Modernization
601-693-4285, Ext. 241

Vacancy Crew
601-483-3328

Community Support Service
601-693-2800

FCAA Administration
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter based on my personal and professional association with Mr. Jimmie L. Hopson and WBNB radio station in Meridian, Mississippi.

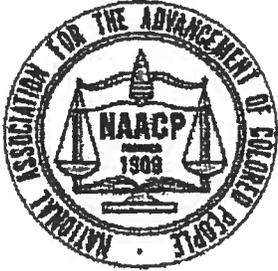
Over the past fifteen years, I've found Mr. Hopson to be honest and straightforward in his approach to the dissemination of news worthy information to the citizens of the City of Meridian.

He continues to demonstrate a high level of trustworthiness, loyalty and commitment to his community through his radio station.

If any additional information is required, please feel free to contact me at (601) 693-4285.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Turner, Sr., Executive Director
Meridian Housing Authority



President
Rev. Eugene Maurice
Boger
1st Vice Pres.
Rev. Ecclesiastes
Goodwin
2nd Vice Pres.
Terrence Davis
Secretary
Melba Clark-Payne
Asst. Sect.
Janet Moore
Treasurer
Arceola Walker

Meridian/Lauderdale County Branch NAACP
P. O. Box 4143
Meridian, Mississippi 39304

October 10, 2019

FCC Administrator
445-12th Street, SW
Washington, D. C. 20554

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Letter of recommendation for Jimmie L. Hopson, Owner of Radio Station WNBW

As officers of the Meridian/Lauderdale County Branch NAACP, we are pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Mr. Jimmie L. Hopson, owner of Radio Station WNBW.

As officers and members of our NAACP Branch, some of us have known Mr. Hopson for most of his life. He is a native of Meridian and has been an excellent example of how a person can achieve through his hard work and perseverance.

His hard work is known to us first through his ownership of the service station and the towing company. Our hearts and minds were moved to a state of congratulations and appreciation when he resurrected radio station WNBW. Each year when the Branch holds its Freedom Fund Banquet, we select a person who has undertaken the ownership or management of a business, and honor him or her as Entrepreneur of the Year. In 2015, this honor was conferred upon Mr. Hopson for his purchase from bankruptcy of WNBW.

This is the only black owned station in this area. We appreciate his public service announcements on our behalf for community events. It would be an irreplaceable blessing we now enjoy if we were to lose the service of WNBW.

Thank you for your consideration of the importance of WNBW to the black community in Meridian and Lauderdale County.

Sincerely yours,

Officers of the Meridian/Lauderdale County Branch NAACP

Rev. Maurice Eugene Boger, Rev. Ecclesiastes Goodwin, Terrence Davis, Melba Payne, Janet Moore, and Arceola Walker

October 8, 2019

FCC Administration

445 12th Street, South West

Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WNBN Radio Station

Meridian, MS 39301

Dear Sir/Madam/Commission:

Please know that I fully support Mr. Jimmie Hopson and his request to continue WNBN. I am a local educator with more than twenty years of experience. I am a native Meridianite and am proud to say I grew up in this city. I have known Mr. Hopson all of my life. As a little girl, I knew him as a strong defender of whatever was right and as someone who added value to our community. As the owner of the radio station, his role of adding value has continued. Mr. Hopson loves the community and the community loves him. If he is not granted permission to continue, please know there will be a void in our community. We can depend on his station to give us up-to-date news about our country and our community. We can depend on him to provide a forum by which we can make informed decisions for the good and welfare of our community. We depend on WNBN and Mr. Jimmie Hopson. Losing his station would be an atrocity.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,


Kathi Wilson

October 7, 2019

FCC Administration

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WNBC Radio Station

Meridian, MS 39301

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept my letter of support for Mr. Jimmie Hopson. I am a ninety-two year old long-time resident of Meridian, Mississippi. I have reared my children in this very town, started and retired from a career of public service, and have every intention of being buried in this town. I consider Jimmie Hopson and his radio broadcast an integral part of my life. As the first African-American to retire from the Lauderdale County Department of Human Services, I can personally attest to Jimmie's community involvement. Everything from the local news, the community updates, and the spiritual songs are important to me. I have known Jimmie personally for well over fifty years. He has helped in many aspects, and I know he has helped countless others. I believe I can vouch for him since I have known him for so long.

Please do what needs to be done to keep him on the air. He is indeed a blessing to me and this community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mrs. Nazie Williams". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Mrs. Nazie Williams



The Wechsler Foundation
3015 15th Street
Meridian, Mississippi 39301

Greetings;

This letter is to express our appreciation of local station AM 1290 WNBN.

We are a non-profit 501C3 organization with headquarters in the Meridian, Mississippi area. On numerous occasions, we have found this radio station to be most helpful when it comes to promoting our various activities and events. We can always depend on WNBN to advertise our on our behalf with urgency and proficiency and we consider them to be a positive force in this area when it comes to being a service to the community and its citizens.

We value their service and hope that they can continue to do great works in the future.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gregory L. Moore', written over a horizontal line.

Rev. Gregory L. Moore
Director of Public Affairs
The Wechsler Foundation
www.wechslerfoundation.com

FCC Administration
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Jimmie L. Hopson, Owner
WNBN Radio Station
Meridian, MS 39301

To Whom It May Concern:

I've known Jimmie Hopson for several years. He has been a close friend of my family since I can remember as a child growing up in this community.

At this time, Mr. Hopson has the only black gospel station in Meridian, Ms. Over the years; this has brought comfort to many household. I am sure when Mr. Hopson decide to pursue the radio business, this, he had in mind.

To this community and surrounding areas, Mr. Hopson has always display himself as a trustworthy, dependable, and responsible person. It is a known fact Mr. Hopson generally has help this community in many ways, where it be advertising or promoting a newly owned business, helping a stranded motorist, towing a vehicle, that's has been involved in a car accident, driving school or church bus. He has helped many young people start their own auto mechanic shop.

To be gracious is to be courteous, kind, and pleasant, that is what Mr. Hopson is to this community.

Sincerely,



Justice Court Judge Ondray M. Harris, Sr.
Lauderdale County
601-938-1107

Ole Duke's Smokehouse BBQ
6009 Old Hwy 80 West
Meridian, MS 39307

FCC Administration
445-12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: WNBN Radio Station, Meridian, MS and Mr. Jimmie Hopson

Dear FCC Administration:

This correspondence is on behalf of WNBN Radio, and station owner Mr. Jimmie Hopson. WNBN has historic significance to the City of Meridian, Mississippi and its families as the first African American owned media outlet and radio station in the area. It would be a travesty for the "Queen City" to lose the station.

Today, WNBN continues to serve as a voice to, and for the community by providing programming that empowers, educates and engages listeners. The station's gospel and R&B format, along with regularly scheduled public service announcements (PSAs) and public affairs talk shows bring a sense of awareness to issues while uplifting the community.

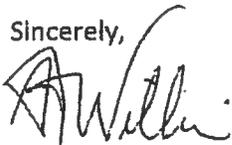
Additionally, Mr. Hopson is a longstanding business owner and native of Meridian. He has invested over 30 years of service to the citizens of Lauderdale County and can have an even greater impact once licensing is granted from your agency.

It would be a travesty for the "Queen City" to lose the station, a rich part of its history that depicts a more positive image of Meridian and the State of Mississippi.

As a Meridian native, I know firsthand the role the station plays in the community. I'm also aware of the visionary leadership of Jimmie Hopson, having known all of my adult life.

It is my hope that the FCC will grant licenses to Mr. Hopson for WNBN radio.

Sincerely,



Eric T. Willis, Owner
Ole Duke's Smokehouse

WCB BROWN

*William Cottrell Brown,
President/CEO*

Ministries

Pastorial Covenants:

*New Vision Baptist Church
Fifth Street Baptist Church
New Covenant Global Bible Fellowship*

Ministries of Service:

*Business in Black
Another Chance Fellowship
601.917.8197 / 601.693.0203
kenya316@aol.com*

FCC ADMINISTRATION
445 12 Street, SW
Washington D C 20554

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am William Brown ,Pastor of Fifth Street
Missionary Baptist Church, Meridian MS. ,and the New Vision Missionary
Baptist Church, Dekalb MS., and the Moderator of the First New Hope District
Association of East Ms./West Alabama.

I'm writing this letter on behalf of Jimmie Hopson, the owner of WNBC RADIO
STATION.

In the forty years that I have known him he has been a reputable business man and
is benevolent in the community in which he has served .Since his acquisition of the
radio station the same integrity and benevolence has been exemplified. In addition,
the Radio Station has been a source of inspiration and information to the East
Mississippi and West Alabama area.

If I can be of further assistance, please inform me.

Sincerely

William C. Brown
William C. Brown

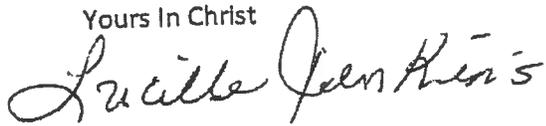
Lucille Jenkins
2921 14th Street
Meridian, MS 39301

To: The FCC

We love our local station, WBNB.

Their format of oldies, blues and gospel is a treat to experience and we also are enlightened by the numerous civic and informational programs that air daily and through the week. We consider this station a valuable commodity for East Mississippi and West Alabama.

Yours In Christ

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lucille Jenkins". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Lucille Jenkins



October 7, 2019

FCC Administration
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WNBC Radio Station
Meridian, Mississippi
Jimmie L. Hopson, Owner

Gentlemen:

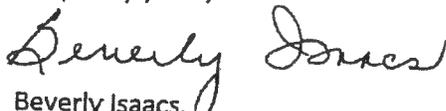
This is to advise that I have been asked to write a letter of recommendation for the above, Jimmie L. Hopson. In this regard, I wish to advise that I have known Jimmie L. Hopson for over 55 years.

I have always known him to be a very hard working individual. In 1960, when I first knew him, he worked for a local service station as a young man and I still remember how kind and pleasant he was to everyone. He was a loyal and dedicated employee and well thought of by his employer, Mr. Carl Sanderford.

He has always impressed me with his strong work ethics and his kind and caring spirit. I know he will work hard and do his best to make a success of his radio station. Although I was not aware of his radio station, I feel sure our local area can support another good quality station and he will do his best to carry that out.

To my knowledge, Jimmy L. Hopson has always maintained a good reputation in our community. I wish him the best with his latest endeavor.

Very truly yours,


Beverly Isaacs,
Vice President

FCC Administration
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WNBC Radio Station
Meridian, MS
Jimmie L. Hopson, Owner

The WNBC radio station is a great inspiration to Meridian and the surrounding communities. Mr. Hopson has a good reputation and he has been a great asset to the City of Meridian as a whole. I have known him for several years as a respectable businessman and friend.

Sincerely,
(Rev.) Archie L. Porter, Retired Pastor,
Shiloh Baptist Church
Sumter County, Alabama

Former businessman/Owner
Porter's Auto Body & Sales
Marion, MS

Archie L. Porter
688 - Old Country Club Rd.
Marion, MS 39342
10-2-19

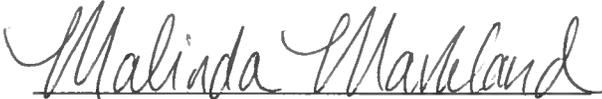
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Malinda Markland, certify that on this 10th day of December, 2019, I caused to be sent, via electronic mail, copies of the foregoing COMMENTS to the following:

Albert Shuldiner, Esq.
Chief, Audio Division, Media Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554
<albert.shuldiner@fcc.gov>

Victoria McCauley, Esq.
Audio Division, Media Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554
<victoria.mccauley@fcc.gov>

Tom Hutton, Esq.
Audio Division, Media Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554
<tom.hutton@fcc.gov>


Malinda Markland
Malinda Markland