

From: Raquel Hutson <Raquel.Hutson@fcc.gov>
Subject: WOMM-LP, FAC ID 135702, APP #0000136032
Date: April 19, 2021 at 12:20:24 PM PDT
To: "admin@bigheavyworld.com" <admin@bigheavyworld.com>

Good afternoon, please amend the educational purpose and objective of this application to provide more detailed descriptions of the nature of the programming that will air on the station, including, if possible, proposed program schedules. Please also explain how the proposed programming will further The Big Heavy World, Inc.'s educational purpose.

Lastly, please clarify whether the assignment has already occurred and whether BHW has exercised control over the station.

Raquel D. Hutson
Industry Analyst
Federal Communications Commission
Media Bureau, Audio Division
202-418-2713

May 8, 2021
P.O. Box 428
Burlington, VT 05402-0428

Raquel D. Hutson
Industry Analyst
Federal Communications Commission
Media Bureau, Audio Division
Via email: Raquel.Hutson@fcc.gov

Re: Amendment request of April 19, rec'd via email

Dear Raquel:

Thank you for your note; it's always a pleasure to share our mission, model, and projects. 105.9FM 'The Radiator' has been an especially fulfilling experience for our community-building organization.

The station has been broadcasting since the fall of 2007. It was established by the volunteers of Big Heavy World under the fiscal agency of The Peace & Justice Center. Big Heavy World eventually received independent 501(c)(3) recognition of exemption by the IRS. It has been operated with the same mission, by the same volunteers, since it was constructed. The letter below of February 11 provides detailed information.

The mission and programming objectives of the radio station have not changed since it was founded; it has functioned as a community radio station, welcoming volunteer programmers from the local community to host locally-generated shows that range from talk, current affairs, foreign language, diverse music genres, educational, and special topics like film or wildlife. It has strenuously avoided partisan political programming and has never broadcast syndicated programming; it is operated as a "hyper-local" community radio station.

Public service programming also originates as weather reports, announcements of public events, and messages that contribute to the wellbeing of the community relating to safety, school sports, mental health hotlines, etc.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the station and its volunteers were responsive. Our Governor provided weekly COVID updates to the public that were carried live on the station. Public service announcements about safety protocols and mask wearing were added to automation and continue to play. Special programming was generated such as a collaborative virtual statewide high school prom — with content provided by public figures and national celebrities for the audience of Vermont's high schoolers who were all learning remotely — and was aired with local music and a celebrity host. The station invited our broadcast audience to submit messages of optimism and encouragement to the community and we put these into rotation. Our volunteers engineered live music broadcasts by musicians from their homes, broadcasting live music delivered safely via the internet.

The recent emergence to prominence of racial equity as a community concern affected our city strongly. The station responded with special event programs including a live New Years Eve talk show (hosted safely) that highlighted BIPOC and LGBTQ voices. We broadcast music from Vermont-based BIPOC artists once per hour, providing amplification of those marginalized communities. One of our programs is hosted by a new American who shares public health information with new American community members, speaking at least three different languages.

Our programmers (DJs) have come from every background: Old and young; new Americans; artists and professionals, etc. Our goal has been to reflect our local community and provide a platform for its interests that is, by policy, respectful of diversity and different opinions. This is a component of our 'new programmer orientation' presentation, held with each new program host. The deeply diverse programming of the station introduces the broadcast audience to facets of the community, arts, culture, and knowledge that it would not have access to without the infrastructure and organization that has been built to broadcast it. The programming schedule may be found at <https://bigheavyworld.com/1059fm-shows>.

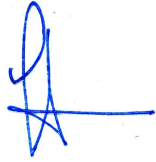
The radio station has been integral to the organization's mission to "preserve the historical record of music originating in Vermont; to create economic opportunity for Vermont's musicians and the industries vital to them; to develop community among Vermont musicians and their patrons; and to accomplish this mission in a substance-free environment that empowers and educates youth." The station has been operated as an inclusive community resource, with programming described above. It also automates the playback of Vermont-made music between live hosts. Several shows present interviews and performances by local musicians. The radio station is, "a nonprofit listener-supported media center generating and transmitting programming that fosters community awareness and civic engagement; encourages and promotes the creative public of the Burlington area; and provides a platform for multigenerational technical education and personal empowerment."

Our organization is staffed by volunteers, most of whom are young adults exploring career interests and/or earning academic credit for the educational experience they gain in support of the organization's projects, including the radio station. Many of these volunteers arrive from local colleges and high schools in the region. Roles at the station in which mentorship is offered include live and studio broadcast engineering (sound mixing, amplification, recording, etc.); production of PSAs, show promos, and station I.D.s; underwriting script-writing; automation of program content; log-keeping and management of the public binder; broadcast studio use (operation of the soundboard and FCC expectations of hosts); and more. Many of our other programs — such as a tiny museum, music archive, public space, and music office initiatives — are the basis of educational tasks that crossover with the station, such as social media management, public outreach, and event planning. Our entire organization is structured to support the education of community members in all facets of our work, and we have put an extraordinary sum of effort into creating a broad and compelling environment for these experiences.

All of our programs together comprise an intensely unique educational environment that was recognized in 2020 by an international jury with a 'Best Global Music Office Award.' Our congressional delegation has been supportive as well as the general assembly of the state and our city council, who have sent resolutions and letters of commendation and support.

Thank you for your continued consideration of this Assignment of Authorization. We anticipated that it would be a formality and are grateful that it provided an opportunity to share our work with you and the FCC. We have been conscientious stewards of our frequency, respecting the public's trust and advancing our community's interest in LPFM. Your guidance and management of this opportunity is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jim', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

James Lockridge, Executive Director
The Big Heavy World Foundation, Inc.
jim@heavyworld.com; (802) 373-2890

February 11, 2021
P.O. Box 428
Burlington, VT 05402-0428

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554
Via upload to the FCC Licensing and Management System

Dear Ms. or Sir:

Enclosed are attachments to an application for Assignment of Authorization from the Peace & Justice Center to The Big Heavy World Foundation, Inc. for WOMM-LP, Facility ID Number 135702.

The Big Heavy World Foundation, Inc. (Big Heavy World) is a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit organization, EIN 01-0581546. When an application to establish the station was first submitted in 2000, and during construction under permit from 2004-2007 before our nonprofit status was recognized, our fiscal agent was the Peace and Justice Center, a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit.

In 2012, Big Heavy World was recognized as a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit organization by the IRS. Our organization is a platform for providing technical, professional, and soft skills-building to young adults. We have operated the radio station as an educational platform for multigenerational community members. The station, named 'The Radiator,' has been a robust success in serving our community, reflecting the diversity of its broadcast region through its programming and on-air hosts and providing technical education to hundreds of individuals.

The Peace and Justice Center formalized its recognition of our independence as a 501(c)(3) by transfer of assignment of the station to Big Heavy World in 2012, commemorated in the attached board minutes. From the time of application, through construction, and in the years since, the same team of Big Heavy World volunteers has been responsible for the radio station. This is seen in the attached correspondence between Big Heavy World and the FCC from this period. The transfer of assignment from the Peace and Justice Center to Big Heavy World was a formality and did not reflect any change at all in the leadership, programming, or structure of the station.

Thank you for your consideration of this Transfer of Assignment and for understanding that it does not reflect any change in the station mission, programming or management.

With warmest regards,



James Lockridge, Executive Director
The Big Heavy World Foundation, Inc.
jim@heavyworld.com; (802) 373-2890