

FCC Renewal of License Application

Station WBZ-TV, FCC Facility ID No. 25456, Boston, Massachusetts

FCC Violations During the Preceding License Term Exhibit

- On September 9, 2019 the Commission issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (“NAL”) finding that the 15 broadcast television stations owned and operated by subsidiaries of ViacomCBS Inc. (now Paramount Global) that are affiliated with the CBS Television Network, including the station, violated Section 11.45 of the Commission’s rules by broadcasting simulated EAS Tones during an April 12, 2018 episode of Young Sheldon. File No. EB-IHD-18-00027139. The forfeiture amount associated with the NAL was paid on October 10, 2019.

Online Public Inspection File Exhibit

- While the station believes it was substantially compliant with regard to the political file requirements, certain information regarding political advertising was not uploaded within one business day. The employees responsible for maintaining the station’s political file receive periodic training and reminders regarding the documentation that is required to be included in the station’s online political file. The station has procedures in place that are designed to ensure that the requisite information is uploaded in a timely manner going forward.

Core Programming Processing Guidelines Exhibit

- In preparing this license renewal application, it was determined that certain information in the station’s Children’s Television Programming Reports (“Children’s Reports”) were answered incorrectly, creating an incorrect impression about the station’s broadcast of regularly scheduled children’s core educational and informational programming (“E/I Programming”). While the station believes that it broadcast sufficient regularly-scheduled E/I Programming and additional programming to serve the E/I needs of children to fulfill the Commission’s requirements, out of an abundance of caution and transparency, it has selected the “No” response and provides the additional information below.

Broadcast of Preempted Programs In Second Homes

The station is affiliated with a Big-4 network that routinely broadcasts live programming, including sporting events, of particular interest to its community that results in the preemption of certain E/I Programming. When those preemptions occurred, the station’s policy was to broadcast those preempted episodes in a “second home” time period consistent with FCC policy. In instances where that “second home” time slot was occupied by other time-sensitive programming (e.g., live sporting events or breaking news), then the preempted episode was scheduled to air in a backup second home in a sequential order such that an established pattern would exist to maintain as much programming consistency as possible.

Despite having a standard practice of rescheduling preempted E/I Programming to second home time periods, it appears that in numerous instances when a preempted episode was made good in a backup second home, the Children’s Report incorrectly reported that the makegood was not in a second home despite the episode being aired in a substitute time slot regularly used to air

preempted E/I Programming episodes. Reports using the previous version of the form can no longer be amended. Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, the station affirms here that notwithstanding the station's Children's Reports, the station scheduled preempted E/I Programming episodes to second home time slots in which children could find and view the programming.

On-Air Notifications

The station's Children's Reports for the period covered by this renewal application indicate that in certain instances announcements were not broadcast regarding the times at which preempted programs would be aired.

Notwithstanding the station's Children's Reports, the station's policy was to broadcast announcements at the time of an E/I Programming preemption to inform viewers when the episode would instead be broadcast. Despite significant research and review, including talking to station employees responsible for scheduling E/I Programming and reviewing the records from former employees, the station is unable to determine why some of its Children's Reports indicate the lack of on-air announcements.

In limited instances it is possible that announcements were not broadcast because the preempted episode was broadcast in advance of its originally-scheduled time, but after its regular time slot in the prior week.

For example, in 1Q2017, the E/I Program Chicken Soup for the Soul was scheduled to be broadcast at noon on Saturdays. Following the New England Patriots win on Sunday, January 14, 2017 for a spot in the upcoming NFL playoff game on Sunday, January 22, the station decided on Tuesday, January 16 to schedule special Patriots programming on Saturday, January 21 given the significant local interest. That special Patriots programming resulted in the preemption of an episode of Chicken Soup for the Soul at noon on January 21, which was instead scheduled to a second home at 7AM, earlier on that Saturday 21st. Because the decision to preempt the noon Saturday programming was made after the prior Saturday airing on January 13 and before the time at which the episode would have otherwise aired at noon on January 21, the station was unable to broadcast an on-air announcement either at the episode's regularly-scheduled time or during the prior week's episode of that program.

While the station is unable to fully confirm that it broadcast on-air announcements with regard to each E/I Programming preemption, it did broadcast each episode of preempted E/I Programming other than episodes preempted for breaking news, thus ensuring it was available to young viewers to meet the educational and information needs of children.

Additional Programming Response to the Educational and Informational Needs of Children

In addition to the E/I Programming reported during the term on its Children's Reports, the station broadcast significant amounts of programming responsive to the educational and information needs of children.

- How the World Advances – WBZ 30-minutes 4/3/16 1pm, 5/28/16 1pm, 7/16/16 1:30pm, 8/6/16 1pm
Programs focus on innovators in energy development, reducing poverty around the world, and individual liberty/income equality.

- SCI Q – WBZ 1 hour 10/17/20 1pm and 4/25/21 1pm
An entertaining pop science series that engages viewers with six experts examining issues including animals, outer space, and the planet.
- Every Vote Counts: A Celebration of Democracy – WBZ 1 hour 10/29/20 9pm
- American Anthem – WBZ 1 hour program 7/4/15 1pm, 5/29/16 1pm, 6/18/17 2pm, 6/16/18 3pm, and 6/16/19 1pm
Program “pays tribute to the greatness and durability of America”.
- American Ed TV – WBZ 1 hour 7/18/15 1pm
Program focused maximizing children’s educational experiences.
- Apollo 11:50th Anniversary Special – WBZ 30-minutes 7/14/19 11:30am
- CBS Religion & Culture Series – WBZ 1 show per quarter 2015-2019 30-minutes
Program series produced by CBS News examining a variety of religious and cultural issues, including hate speech and religious bullying, the role of faith in fighting for social justice in black communities, and religious efforts to combat white supremacy issues.
- EveryDay Heroes – WBZ one 30-minute show per quarter 2021-22, monthly 2022-2023
Episodes relate inspirational stories of exceptional people “who go above and beyond the call of duty” focused on events such as Black History Month, Veterans Day, and the 4th of July.

The station also regularly broadcasts public service announcements that address a number of issues important to meeting the educational and information needs of children, including teen suicide prevention, teen drug abuse prevention, and promoting organizations that train challenged youth through education, leadership and social advancement.

The station appreciates the importance of compliance with all of the Commission’s rules, including the obligation to meet the educational and informational needs of children. The station has taken additional steps, including meeting with the station personnel responsible for addressing preemptions of E/I Programming to prevent issues going forward.