

Request for Waiver of Main Studio Rule

Westminster Academy

WRTH(FM), Key Colony Beach, FL (Facility ID No. 175255)

Westminster Academy (“Westminster”), proposed assignee of WRTH(FM), Key Colony Beach, FL (Facility ID No. 175255), seeks a waiver of the Commission’s main studio rule, 47 C.F.R. Section 73.1125. As provided in Rule 73.1125(a)(4), the Commission will waive the main studio rule where good cause is shown and where the proposed studio location “would be consistent with the operation of the station in the public interest.” The Commission has recognized the benefits of centralized operations for noncommercial educational stations, given their limited resources and has granted waivers of the main studio rule where satellite operations are proposed. See Main Studio and Program Origination Rules, 3 FCC Rcd 5024, 5027 (1988). See also American Family Association, (Marksville, Louisiana), 12 FCC Rcd 15128 (Hearing Designation Order 1997); Public Broadcasting in Northwest Ohio (Defiance, Ohio), 12 FCC Rcd 15114 (Hearing Designation Order February 19, 1997); Greater Washington Education Telecommunications Association, Inc., (Leonardtown, Maryland), 12 FCC Rcd 15123 (1997).

Westminster seeks waiver of the main studio rule in order to operate WRTH(FM) as a satellite of WAFG(FM), Fort Lauderdale, Florida (Facility ID No. 72029) and to locate the main studio for WRTH at WAFG’s main studio. Key Colony Beach and Fort Lauderdale are approximately 136 miles (219 kilometers) apart. Grant of the waiver request to locate the main studio in Fort Lauderdale will allow tremendous cost savings while imposing a de minimus inconvenience. The cost savings are in the public interest by allowing the limited funding available for noncommercial broadcasting to be used for programming. A waiver is necessary due to the limited funding available to noncommercial educational broadcast stations. The cost savings will help ensure the station’s financial success.

In order to ensure that its public service obligations to the community of Key Colony Beach, Florida, are met, Westminster agrees to undertake the following:

- (1) It will establish toll-free phone service to the station for residents of Key Colony Beach, Florida.
- (2) It will provide periodic local programming for Key Colony Beach, Florida, residents, including coverage of significant local news or cultural events.
- (3) It will, on at least a quarterly basis, contact residents and community leaders of Key Colony Beach to ascertain the interests, needs, and concerns of Key Colony Beach residents. Westminster will provide programming that addresses these community needs.
- (4) It will maintain a public file for WRTH at the WAFG main studio.