

Received & Inspected

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FCC Mailroom

Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission 2019 DEC 30 AM 10: 26  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554  
ATTN: Audio Division, License Renewal Processing Team

Reference: Application for Renewal for radio station WLRN, 91.3 located in Miami Florida

Dear Gentlepersons;

I wish to file a formal petition to deny WLRN (91.3) application for renewal of their broadcast license. This application should be denied based on the following issues.

The license for WLRN, which is the only South Florida NPR station, is held by the Miami Dade school board. The school board has exercised undue influence and pressure on the station content and has made public, political statements about the station operations implying that the station should change its coverage. This is a matter of public record as the school board meetings are recorded and open to the public.

The Miami-Dade school board should not be the owner of this license as it is an elected body representing only the people of Dade County. WLRN is the only NRP station for three large counties: Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach. WLRN took over the only other NPR station which was in Palm Beach so they have a monopoly. The people of Broward and Palm Beach Counties have no say or representation on the election of the individual that control the only, public, independent news station within the South Florida area.

The WLRN news organization works with and is openly affiliated with the Miami Herald newspaper. Due to this association there is very much a bias towards news happening in Dade County while news in Broward and West Palm is ignored. WLRN does not broadcast the results of critical elections nor critical statewide amendments but instead cover what used to be consider society items such as a nun cutting trees in her whiple or bartender murals. Society items should be covered but not within and under the sponsorship of the news organization. This is again the result of the ownership and influence of the station by the Miami-Dade school board.

WLRN new coverage is unprofessional and totally biased. When controversial subjects are discussed regarding Cuba or the situation in Venezuela the station because of its large Hispanic and Cuban membership the station often slants its coverage. When for example Castro died more information on his background, his accomplishments including his evils was obtained from the BCC than from my local station which advertises itself as the South American experts.

The final concern with the renewal of the WLRN license is its' fund raising. First, WLRN often states that it is a non-commercial station which is technically true in that is a not

for profit station. However no commercial it is not. Advertisements from Willie the Bee Man to Miami Symphony Orchestra are constant and continuous. There are interlocking directorships between several non-profits and WLRN where donations made to one organization are funneled to WLRN in return to promotion of their concerts, charities etc. This goes back to the independence or lack thereof of WLRN and its coverage of local activities. There can be no independent reviews of shows, or concerts when these entities are helping to fund WLRN. Over the top statements, Stupendous, World Class, Fantastic, are fine for a commercial station but have no place on a public radio station that should be offering independent critiques and reviews.

The license for WLRN should be removed from the Miami Dade school board and vested in another public entity such as the Friends of WLRN or an equivalent publically elected board directed, non-profit entity.

Sincerely



Donald McInnis  
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