

REPLY TO INFORMAL OBJECTION OF DOMINGA BARRETO ON WVOZ-AM
MINOR CHANGE APPLICATION (May 13, 2017)

Wifredo G. Blanco-Pi, licensee of WVOZ-AM respectfully submits his reply to the Informal objection filed by Dominga Barreto Santiago, owner of WWNA-AM Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. Blanco-Pi has on file the minor change application BP-20170327AAF to change the community of license to Aguadilla, P. R.

Blanco-Pi received Thursday, May 11, 2017 by regular mail copy of the informal objection submitted by Mrs. Dominga Barreto Santiago.

In her letter, Dominga Barreto never raises the argument that a new station for Aguadilla, P. R. would put in economic distress her radio station. She argues that there are five other radio licensed to Aguadilla. Indeed Aguadilla had another licensed AM radio, WI3XSO, an AM synchronous booster of WISO that rebroadcasted the programming of the WAPA RADIO network in Aguadilla.

WI3XSO-AM Aguadilla, P. R. was on the air for 17 years until May 7, 2017. The people of Aguadilla used to receive the news/talk programming of the WAPA RADIO network through Wi3XSO-AM whose license was cancelled by the FCC on May 7, 2017 because the FCC decided to cancel all experimental synchronous boosters in Puerto Rico and the Continental U.S.

It would be in the best public interest for the people of Aguadilla to keep this important fulltime news/information media thru WVOZ-AM. The major of Aguadilla wrote on December 15, 2016 to the FCC in support of keeping on the air the AM synchronous booster of WAPA RADIO in Aguadilla. (the letter is available at RM-11779, Rulemaking Comments for AM boosters). In the letter the Major of Aguadilla states:

“Since WAPA-AM has been not a music station, but an all news/talk station the people of Aguadilla and surrounding areas communicate their problems thru the airwaves of WAPA, an effective way for the municipal and state government to keep in touch with the citizens.” “The people of Aguadilla have a tradition of tuning WAPA (WI3XSO) for listening to news and information so I believe it would not be in the public interest to deprive the people of Aguadilla and the West/Northwest of the Island of the synchronous boosters of WAPA. I strongly support to grant them a permanent license to operate instead of signing them off”.

As it is discussed in the minor change application Morovis is a suburban area of the San Juan Metro Area. The San Juan Metro Area is composed too of Guaynabo, Bayamon, Carolina, Toa Baja among other municipalities. The people of Morovis use to work, study and/or purchase their goods outside of Morovis at the San Juan/metro area or Manati-Barceloneta Metro Area.

The only medium sized shopping outlet at Morovis is 2/3 vacant. Businesses at Morovis downtown are small and scarce. The people of Morovis don't go to work, study or do shopping to the mountainous municipalities at the Center of Puerto Rico they go towards the north coast municipalities. Morovis has an expressway that connects it to the Metro Area of San Juan or Manati in 30 minutes or less. When Doming Ruiz refers to a longer trip she is obviously refering going to the farthest part of the San Juan Metro Area.

WGP

Du Treil, Lundin & Rackley give ample discussion on the vast quantity of radio station signals serving Morovis from San Juan Metro Area, and the Manati/Barceloneta metro area. WKUM-AM Orocovis, P.R., a local radio station from a nearby town serves Morovis also. WKUM-AM relies in part on Morovis clients to sustain itself with local rates.

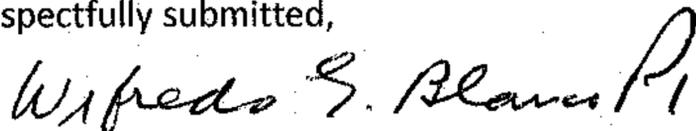
Dominga Barreto Santiago, owner of WWNA Aguadilla, arguments mainly as if she were a Morovis resident and not as the owner of a station licensed to the head of the Mayaguez/Aguadilla Senatorial district that has multiple important U.S/multinational industries, several Universities, multiple large shopping malls and a strong local economy, contrary to Morovis which is mainly a residential area of people that do their daily business at San Juan or Manati Metro areas.

For example Morovis tried to maintain operating a major basketball team (Titanes of Morovis) and couldn't economically sustain it. Every licensee of WVOZ-AM Morovis (Blanco-Pi, Pedro Roman Collazo (R.I.P), Angel Roman Lopez, Reverend Wanda Rolon, and another Church that leased WVOZ-Morovis for several years, Faro de Santidad, were unable to make it an economically sustainable media.

Blanco-Pi paid only \$150,000. (a hundred and fifty thousand dollars) for the station's license, the real state property (land and studios-transmitter building and equipment. The amount paid is really the value of the 3 (three) acres of land and building of the transmitter site of WVOZ-Morovis which is contained in a residential area. WVOZ-AM at Morovis is not a sustainable business, not even for religious denominations that survive mainly of offerings.

The arguments of Dominga Ruiz are amply discussed in DuTreil, Lundin and Rackley Statement, Angel Roman letter and Blanco-Pi's statement that are part of the minor change application.

Respectfully submitted,



Eng. Wifredo G. Blanco-Pi, licensee WVOZ-AM

December 15, 2016

Mr. Peter Doyle, Chief AM Branch
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
445 12TH. St. S. W. Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: 1800B3-TSN In Support of
keeping on the air WI3XSO-AM
(synchronous booster of WAPA
RADIO)

Dear Mr. Doyle:

As major of the city of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico for 20 years and reelected for a 6th term I respectfully request the FCC to maintain on the air the station WI3XSO-AM 1260 Khz., Aguadilla, P.R. I've listened on the air that the FCC has cancelled the license of this station effective May 7, 2017.

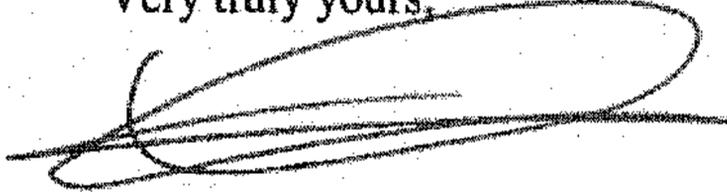
The antenna site of WI3XSO-AM is located at Palmar Ward, Aguadilla, and for 14 consecutive years it has served the public interest of the people of Aguadilla and surrounding municipalities. This synchronous booster of WAPA RADIO has maintained the people of the Northwest of the Island informed, and has served as an important communication link between our population and the state government.

Since WAPA-AM has been not a music station, but an all news/talk station the people of Aguadilla and surrounding areas communicate their problems thru the airwaves of WAPA, an effective way for the municipal and state government to keep in touch with the citizens. In emergencies such as floods and hurricanes, WI3XSO has been on the air even when other stations couldn't stay on the air. WI3XSO keeps the people of Aguadilla and surrounding municipalities well informed.

Since I have to travel weekly to San Juan and other municipalities on the West of the Island, I have listened to the synchronous station system WAPA has at Arecibo, Mayaguez, and Aguadilla and the signal keeps strong all the way with an excellent sound quality.

The people of Aguadilla have a tradition of tuning WAPA (W13XSO) for listening to news and information so I believe it would not be in the best public interest to deprive the people of Aguadilla and the West/Northwest of the Island of the synchronous boosters of WAPA. I strongly support to grant them a permanent license to operate instead of signing them off.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlos Méndez', with a large, sweeping flourish that loops back under the name.

Carlos Méndez
Aguadilla City Major