

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-03-014R

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDING LOW POWER FM RADIO SERVICE

WHEREAS, the passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 led to increased ownership consolidation in the commercial radio industry;

WHEREAS, in January 2000 the FCC, responding to overwhelming public pressure against ownership consolidation of the radio airwaves, and the resulting homogenization of the broadcast content, created the Low-Power FM (LPFM) service, allowing community groups to launch non-commercial, 100-watt radio stations in order to increase diversity of programming;

WHEREAS, in December 2000 Congress, under intense pressure from corporate broadcasters, passed the Radio Broadcasting Preservation Act, severely curtailing the new LPFM service, with the result that 80% of opportunities for new stations were lost;

WHEREAS, urban areas were particularly affected by this Act, with the result that, of the fifty largest American cities, only one now qualifies to receive an LPFM license;

WHEREAS, the availability of local and democratically controlled media outlets is essential to promoting citizen participation in public affairs, ensuring rapid responses to natural disasters, overcoming historic inequalities in access to the means of communication and strengthening a vibrant democracy;

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana is home to an LPFM station, WRFU, which airs a wide range of public affairs and arts programming, supports and promotes locally originated music, and provides opportunities for myriad community members and groups to produce content and reach audiences;

WHEREAS, all other Americans deserve the chance to benefit from the same LPFM service which benefits Urbana;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

That the City of Urbana urges Congress and the FCC to restore the LPFM service to its original mandate, and to do all within their power to ensure that license applications are processed quickly, and that citizens are given the opportunity to access the public airwaves.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Federal Communications Commission.

PASSED by the City Council this _____ day of _____,
_____.

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of _____,
_____.

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor