

February 15, 2005

Honorable Chairman Michael Powell
Office of the Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

We, the members of the Coordinating Council of Asian American Organizations, are requesting FCC to initiate an investigation on New York's Hot 97 WQHT FM's recent anti-Asian broadcast. The Coordinating Council of Asian American Organizations is an ad hoc group of leading Asian American community organizations and community leaders that represents a wide cross section of the Asian American community from all walks of life including executives, professionals, artists and performers, business people, students and others. We are distressed by Hot 97 WQHT FM's profane, reckless, racist and evil broadcast. This broadcast was aired multiple times during the week of 17 January 2005. The content of this broadcast was distributed both via FCC-licensed airwaves as well as via Internet to the general public.

We believe the Hot 97 WQHT FM broadcast violated the Telecommunications Act of 1996, FCC's established broadcast rules and generally acceptable community decency standards. Our constituent groups assert this broadcast made a mockery of the FCC "good character" requirement for radio broadcast license holder.

To demonstrate our point, we have excerpted part of the broadcast content for your review:

***"All at once you could hear the screaming chinks
and no one was safe from the wave
there were Africans drowning, little chinamen swept away
you could hear god laughing, "swim you bitches swim"***

***So now you're screwed, it's the Tsunami
you better run or kiss your ass away, go find your mommy
I just saw her float by, a tree went through her head
and now the children will be sold to child slavery..."***

Following one of the airing, the radio station host publicly proclaimed:

"I'm gonna shoot some Asians".

While the Hot 97 WQHT FM and its management (Emmis Communication) have taken some initial steps in accountability, the FCC needs to investigate whether the production of this broadcast is evidence of a license holder company culture that condones racist and hateful attitudes towards people of Asian and African descent and one that encourages intolerance and divisiveness in our communities. The multiple broadcasts of profane languages, including the irreverent use of God's name, was grossly offensive and provoked deep public resentment, particularly those who are religious.

In addition to demeaning and dehumanizing millions of victims of the epic *tsunami* tragedy, Hot 97 WQHT FM appeared to advocate killing and maiming Asians on the FCC-licensed airwaves. Every law enforcement agency must treat such calls to kill or maim at face value and react accordingly. By proclaiming on the air "I'm gonna shoot some Asians," Hot 97 WQHT could have unleashed untold violence against Asian people within the broadcast range of this station. The threat to kill and maim on the air was a clear and present danger to a large part of the general public and is a form of domestic terrorism that could have caused great public harm.

Accordingly, on behalf of our coalition's undersigned members, we ask the FCC to initiate a formal investigation into this matter so that the facts are known and appropriate measures are taken to preclude and to deter future occurrences. If appropriate, we assume the FCC will assess the relevant penalties. We also ask that the FCC staff keep us informed of the progress of this matter and to contact us via electronic mail (joemok@erols.com) if we or any of our constituent members can assist in this investigation through written or oral testimony or otherwise.

Sincerely,

Joe Mok
Chair, Coordinating Council of Asian American Organizations

(Signatories listed in alphabetical order)

Alex Chan, Vice President, Federal Asian Pacific American Council
Carolyn Chan, President and David Leong, Senior Director, Chinese American Citizens Alliance
Huang He, President, Consolidated Society of Chinese University Alumni Associations
Henry Lau, President, Coordination Council of Chinese American Associations
Joe Melegrito, President, National Federation of Filipino American Associations
S. Alice Mong, Executive Director and John Fugh, (Major General, Retired), Committee 100
Sawat Nantavutr, Vice President, Thai Issan Association
DG Parekh, President, Indian American School of Performing Arts
Peter Wong, President, Asian American Government Executive Network
Xiao Shugen, Executive Director, Greater Washington Chinese American Community

CC: Federal Communications Commission, Enforcement Bureau, Investigations & Hearings Division,
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