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Via Email

September 29, 2016

Robert L Baker
Assistant Chief, Policy Division
Media Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: COMPLAINT CONCERNING PUBLIC FILE
VIOLATIONS AT WCPO-TV

Dear Mr. Baker:

This letter demands that the Commission expedite its handling of the complaint filed on September 26, 2016 on behalf of Campaign Legal Center, Common Cause, Sunlight Foundation, and Benton Foundation (“Complainants”) relating to Station WCPO-TV’s non-compliance with the Commission’s public file rules. Specifically, Complainants ask that you direct the licensee to respond to the complaint by October 5, 2016.

Your office frequently and publicly brags that it handles election-related matters on an extremely expedited basis, using email and telephone conversations, and delivering oral decisions when necessary. That appears to be the case when the parties are advertisers and broadcast licensees, but not when affected parties are journalists and other members of the public.

In this instance, in your letter to counsel for WCPO-TV today, you have needlessly afforded the licensee and Complainants one month and three weeks, respectively, to address this

* Admitted to the bars of New York and New Jersey. Supervised by a member of the DC bar.

matter. That schedule would mean that the pleadings cycle would not be complete until November 17, 2016, nine days after the election. That schedule is nothing less than an abandonment of your duty to serve the public interest.

As the Complainants' September 26, 2016 letter to the Chairman demonstrates, the Commission has steadfastly refused to take any action on public file complaints, notwithstanding public statements promising prompt action.

WCPO-TV is well aware of what is in its files and it should not take more than a day or so to prepare a response. It has been on notice of this complaint from the moment it was filed. Accordingly, we call on you to direct that the licensees respond by October 6, 2016. Complainants will submit any response within one week thereafter.

Sincerely,



Andrew Jay Schwartzman

cc.

Kenneth C. Howard, Jr.
William Lake
Chairman Wheeler
Commissioner Clyburn
Commissioner Rosenworcel

Commissioner Pai
Commissioner O'Reilly
Jessica Almond
Gigi Sohn