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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

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IN REPLY REFER TO:
1800B3-GNB

Cary Tepper, Esq.
Meyer, Faller, Weisman and Rosenberg
4400 Jenifer Street, N.W.
Suite 380
Washington, D.C. 20015-2113

In re: WBLU-FM, Grand Rapids, Michigan
Blue Lakes Fine Arts Camp
Request for Waiver of
47 C.F.R. § 73.1125
BPED-930803IB

Dear Mr. Tepper:

This letter refers to your request, filed 16 June 1993, and responsive amendment, filed 7 September 1994, for waiver of the Commission's Main Studio Rule, 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125, to permit station WBLU-FM to operate as a "satellite" of station WBLV-FM, Twin Lake, Michigan and to co-locate WBLU at the Twin Lake studio.

In support of your waiver request, you state that: (i) as a non-profit, non-commercial licensee, Blue Lake is necessarily restricted in the means by which it can raise funds for its operations; (ii) Blue Lake expects to simulcast much of WBLV's programming on WBLU and thus, the WBLU studio would remain inactive much of the time; (iii) Blue Lake already provides a significant amount of programming to meet the needs of both the Twin Lake and Grand Rapids communities; (iv) Blue Lake's operation of one main studio for both noncommercial stations would allow the licensee to allocate its limited funds to more community-oriented programming; (v) Blue Lake will continue to maintain its local public file at Grand Rapids; and (vi) telephone calls between Grand Rapids and Twin Lake will not result in any extra charge for Grand Rapids residents. You also submit letters from community leaders expressing support for Blue Lake's plan to expand its involvement in Grand Rapids.

Furthermore, in response to concerns delineated in the Commission's letter dated 18 August 1994, you emphasize your commitment to meeting the needs of the Grand Rapids community especially through fine arts programming. You state that WBLV and WBLU have, and will continue, to respond to the interests and needs of Grand Rapids through the broadcast of concerts by the Grand Rapids Symphony. Moreover, on-the-air interviews with community representatives concerning "local education, arts, and community activities and concerns" will continue to be broadcast on WBLU in recognition of your duty to your community of license. Compliance with this duty is also accomplished by your involvement in "monthly luncheon meetings of the professional administrators of Grand Rapids area fine arts organizations," and

because two members of the Blue Lake Board of Trustees are Grand Rapids Residents.

Section 73.1125 of the Commission's Rules, as revised by *In re* Amendment of Sections 73.1125 and 73.1130 of the Commission's Rules, *Report and Order*, 2 FCC Rcd 3215 (1987) (proceeding terminated), and *In re* Amendment of Sections 73.1125 and 73.1130 of the Commission's Rules, *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, 3 FCC Rcd 5024 (1988) (proceeding terminated), requires a broadcast station to maintain its main studio in its city of license except "when good cause exists for locating the main studio outside the principal community contour to be served . . . . and [as long as it] would be consistent with the operation of the station in the public interest." The purpose of this rule is "to make broadcast stations readily accessible to people in the communities which they are primarily licensed to serve." *In re* Amendment of Parts 1 and 73 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Main Studio Location of FM and Television Broadcast Stations, *Report and Order,* 27 F.C.C.2d 851, 852 (1971). In the past, the Commission has stated that:

> we have recognized the benefits of centralized operations for noncommercial educational stations, given the limited funding available to these stations, and we have granted waivers to state and regional public television and radio networks to operate "satellite" stations that do not necessarily meet the requirements of a main studio. These stations, however, *have not been permitted to ignore local service obligations,* and waivers generally have been granted only upon a showing that the local community would be served.

In re Amendment of Sections 73,1125 and 73.1130, *Memorandum Opinion and Order* 3 FCC Rcd 5024, 5027 (1988) (emphasis added) (footnotes omitted).

This Request for Waiver now provides reasons sufficient to determine that WBLU-FM is aware of and will meet its local service obligations. Your 7 September amendment sufficiently answers the Commission's concerns and demonstrates that WBLU will serve the community of Grand Rapids, Michigan, irrespective of the fact that the station's main studio will not be located within it principal comunity contour.

Accordingly, WBLU's Request for Waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 73.1125 IS HEREBY GRANTED.

Sincerely,

Dennis Williams
Chief, FM Branch
Audio Services Division
Mass Media Bureau