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COMMISSION ANNOUNCES DETAILS OF PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCALISM IN CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

As announced on October 3, 2003, the Localism Task Force of the Federal Communications Commission has scheduled six public hearings on the subject of localism, and will hold the first of these in Charlotte, North Carolina. Several FCC Commissioners will preside. The hearing is open to the public, and seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. The hearing date, time, and location, are:

Date & Time: Wednesday, October 22, 2003

6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Location: Charlotte-Mecklenberg Government Center Meeting Chamber

600 East Fourth Street Charlotte, North Carolina

The purpose of the hearings is to gather information from consumers, industry, civic organizations, and others on broadcasters' service to their local communities. The Charlotte hearing will begin with a number of invited guests and panelists making brief introductory remarks. The Commissioners will then have an opportunity to ask the panelists questions or comment on the subject of localism. Approximately one half of the time allotted for the hearing will be reserved for the general public to register their views through an "open microphone" format. The Commission will release further details before the hearing.

Open captioning will be provided for this event. Other reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Please include a description of the accommodation needed, providing as much detail as you can, as well as contact information in case additional information is needed. Please make your request as early as possible, and allow at least five days advance notice. Last minute requests will be accepted, but may be impossible to fulfill. Please send a request by e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov, or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau:

For sign language interpreters, CART, and other reasonable accommodations, 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (TTY);

For accessible format materials (Braille, large print, electronic files, and audio format), 202-418-0531 (voice), 202-418-7365 (TTY).

The hearing will be recorded, and the record will be made available to the public. The public may also file comments or other documents with the Commission. Filing instructions are provided at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs-public/attachmatch/DOC-239578A1.doc.

For additional information about the hearing or the Localism Task Force, please visit the Task Force's website at http://www.fcc.gov/localism, or contact the Task Force directly at 202-418-7777, or at localism@fcc.gov. Press inquiries should be directed to Michelle Russo, at 202-418-2358, or Meribeth McCarrick, at 202-418-0654.