

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No.* 517

*Approved* June 27, 2003

WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission recently voted to change media ownership regulations so as to increase the number of television stations that a single company may own in a single market; allow a single company to own both a television station and a newspaper in the same market; and increase the percentage of the nation's population that may be reached by television stations owned by a single company; and

WHEREAS, Limits on media ownership were put in place in order to protect the public's ability to choose from a plethora of media sources, and to facilitate every citizen's access to an abundance of viewpoints; and,

WHEREAS, The recent regulatory changes allow for increased consolidation of the ownership of media outlets; and

WHEREAS, Similar deregulation mandated by the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 has contributed to a decline in the number of radio-station owners nation-wide, by the order of 30 percent over the last seven years; and

WHEREAS, Access to diverse sources of information and dissenting voices is in the public interest, while increased consolidation is not; and,

WHEREAS, Public input on this matter has been restricted, and FCC Chairman Michael Powell has attended only two of the 13 public meetings at which the FCC has taken comment relative to it; and

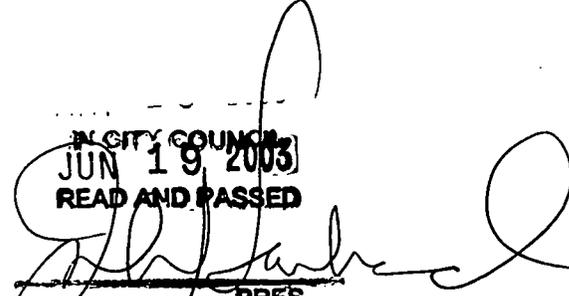
WHEREAS, The overwhelming majority of comments filed with the FCC about the rule changes is in opposition to said changes; and

a. ...

WHEREAS, Members of Congress have demanded that the FCC share with them the research used to justify the regulatory changes, but the FCC has refused to do so.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence, Rhode Island, hereby opposes the afore-mentioned recent changes in media ownership rules and, hereby urges the passage of bills H.R. 2052 and S. 1046, which would mandate that stations owned by a single company reach no more than 35% of the population of the United States and, hereby urges the Rhode Island Delegation to the United States Senate and House of Representatives to do all in its power to reverse the afore-mentioned regulatory changes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk shall forward copies of this resolution to President Bush, Senators Reed and Chaffee, and Representatives Kennedy and Langevin.

**IN CITY COUNCIL**  
**JUN 19 2003**  
**READ AND PASSED**  
  
**PRES.**  
  
**CLERK**

**APPROVED**  
  
**MAYOR** 6/27/03

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK



Michael R. Clement  
City Clerk

Claire E. Bestwick  
First Deputy

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK  
CITY HALL

Anna M. Stetson  
Second Deputy

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES REQUESTED

Date: 6/11/03

Time: 9:54pm

Council Person Legal

By Request   
Not By Request

Summary: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ A resolution in opposition to the Federal Communication Commission's \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ weakening of certain restrictions on media ownership. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

he will have the text  
for this resolution

Taken By: \_\_\_\_\_

       
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**Date:** Sat, 14 Jun 2003 00:29:58 -0600

**From:** david@votesegal.com

**To:** david@votesegal.com

**Subject:** fcc

Whereas, the Federal Communications Commission recently voted to change media ownership regulations so as to increase the number of television stations that a single company may own in a single market; allow a single company to own both a television station and a newspaper in the same market; and increase the percentage of the nation's population that may be reached by television stations owned by a single company; and,

Whereas limits on media ownership were put in place in order to protect the public's ability to choose from a plethora of media sources, and to facilitate every citizen's access to an abundance of viewpoints; and,

Whereas, the recent regulatory changes allow for increased consolidation of the ownership of media outlets; and,

Whereas, similar deregulation mandated by the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 has contributed to a decline in the number of radio-station owners nation-wide, by on the order of 30 percent over the last seven years; and,

Whereas, access to diverse sources of information and dissenting voices is in the public interest, while increased consolidation is not; and,

Whereas, public input on this matter has been restricted, and FCC Chairman Michael Powell has attended only two of the 13 public meetings at which the FCC has taken comment relative to it; and,

Whereas the overwhelming majority of comments filed with the FCC about the rule changes is in opposition to said changes; and,

Whereas, Members of Congress have demanded that the FCC share with them the research used to justify the regulatory changes, but the FCC has refused to do so,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the City Council of the City of Providence, Rhode Island:

Hereby opposes the aforementioned recent changes in media ownership rules; and,

Hereby urges the passage of bills H.R.2052 and S.1046, which would mandate that stations owned by a single company reach no more than 35% of the population of the United States; and,

Hereby urges the Rhode Island delegation to the United States Senate and House of Representatives to do all in its power to reverse the aforementioned regulatory changes.

RESOLVED, that the City Clerk shall forward copies of this resolution to President Bush, Senators Reed and Chaffee, and Representatives Kennedy and Langevin.