

ISSUES/PROGRAMS TUTORIAL

The FCC requires that licensees of commercial AM, FM & TV Stations and all educational FM Stations (except those whose effective radiated power is 10 watts or less or whose programming is 100% instructional) maintain and place in the Station Public Inspection File, a quarterly list "of programs that have provided the station's most significant treatment of community issues during the preceding three month period." (Language in quotes is from FCC Rules).

1. Dates For Preparing Such Lists:

Between January 1-10; April 1-10; July 1-10; and October 1-10, each licensee shall prepare and place in the Station's Public Inspection File, for each Station owned by licensee, an Issues/Programs List for the preceding three months.

2. The Contents of the Issues/Programs List:

Each List must include, but not be limited to "...a brief narrative describing what issues were given significant treatment and the programming that provided this treatment. The description of the programs should include, but is not limited to, the time, date and title of each program in which the issue was treated." (Language in quotes is from FCC Rules).

3. The Format of the Issues/Programs List:

The FCC requires no specific format provided all elements listed in paragraph 2, above are given. You may list the Issues first and then list the Programs under those Issues; you may list the Programs first, and then Issues treated by those Programs; or, you may list the Issues and Programs, chronologically, by dates.

Attached, as Page 3 is a sample Issues/Programs List. It lists the Issues of Crime and Aids Prevention and under each the Programs or programming dealing with those Issues. Note that each Program is briefly described and includes the dates, times and duration of each Program or announcement. Such is required.

If you own a cluster of stations, each station should ascertain community needs for its community of license and provide responsive programming to those issues. Each station should maintain its own issues-programs list for programming which runs on that station. **EVERY LICENSED STATION HAS AN OBLIGATION TO SERVE THE PUBLIC INTEREST THROUGH ITS OWN INDIVIDUAL ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST, BASED ON ISSUES CRITICAL TO ITS CITY OF LICENSE.**

4. How many Issues and Programs?

The FCC expects that each quarterly Issues/Programs list treat at least 5 and normally not more than 10 Issues. There is no minimum or maximum for the number of Programs. For example, a Station may have 1, 2 or 3 Programs, regularly or irregularly scheduled, that, over time, treat 5, 6, or more Issues. For example, in the attachment to this memo, "The Mayor's Report" was broadcast at 10:30 AM for fifteen minutes, every Monday, and on the dates indicated treated the Issue of Crime. On other dates that same Program could have treated other Issues, and if so, you would separately list those other issues, by date. Indeed, two or more Issues can be treated during one program segment. If so, list each Issue under that program by date and duration (number of minutes for each separate Issue treated during that one program).

5. What is an Issue?

An "Issue" is any matter of substantial public concern, in your area. Licensees are given broad discretion in listing Issue of concern in their area.

6. What is a Program?

Program or Programming may include not only a 5, 10, 30 or more minute segments, but public service announcements as well. Moreover, the Program or Programming may be commercial or non-commercial. Indeed, a commercial announcement could qualify if it deals with an Issue. Budweiser, for example, runs commercials reminding its customers to drink with moderation and not to drive an automobile if one has been drinking. This would qualify as meeting the Issue of alcohol use and abuse. **However, do not rely, entirely on commercial and non-commercial announcements. Some formal Programs must be included.**

7. Failure to Prepare and Maintain Issues/Programs Lists

(a) Most all FCC inspectors ask to see your Issues/Programs Lists. If you have none, most always you will be liable for a fine of at least several hundred dollars.

(b) If a member of the public request to examine your Public Inspection File, you must permit examination. If he or she writes the FCC, noting that the required Issues/Programs lists were not included, the FCC will ask you for an explanation, which probably will result in a fine.

(c) Most importantly, the next time you file for renewal of license, you must answer "Yes" or "No" to the question, "Has the applicant placed in its-station's public inspection file at the appropriate times the documentation required by 47 C.F.R. Sections 73.3526 and 73.3527?" (These Sections concern the requirement to prepare and place in the Public Inspection File, the Issues/Programs Lists). If you answer "No," this probably will result in a substantial fine. If you answer "Yes," when in fact you have no such Lists and/or the Lists are incomplete or deficient, and the FCC discovers this later, you will be subject to a substantial fine and/or the risk of losing your license.

Station ~XXX. Anywhere. U.S.A.

Issues/Programs List for the period October 1 to December 31, 2007

During the period October 1 to December 31, 2007, Station WXXX's programming treated the following issues of public concern:

1. Crime

<u>Programming</u>	<u>Times-Duration</u>	<u>Dates</u>
<u>The Mayor's Report</u>	10:30 AM 15 minutes every Monday	10/3; 10/17; 11/21; 12/12; 12/19

Description: Included in this regularly scheduled discussion program₁ are various topics of concern to the community. Crime and Crime Prevention was specifically treated on the dates indicated.

<u>News Summary</u>	<u>Monday - Friday</u>	<u>10/5; 10/17; 10/27;</u>
	5PM; 10 minutes	11/3; 11/24/12/8; 12/21

Description: A news summary, treating the most significant new stories of the week. During the dates indicated approximately 30 seconds to 1 minute involved news stories concerning Crimes and criminal activity committed within the service area.

2. AIDS Prevention

<u>Programming</u>	<u>Times/Duration</u>	<u>Dates</u>
<u>PSAs</u>	30 seconds duration	10/10 at 10AM; 11/29 at 3PM; 12/16 at 11AM

Description: A series of Public Service Announcements concerning the AIDS Virus and steps to be taken to avoid infection.

<u>Health Watch</u>	<u>2PM; 15 minutes, monthly</u>	<u>10/19; 11/16; 12/14</u>

Description: An interview program with area medical experts concerning health problems. On the dates indicated, the prevention of and current treatments of AIDS were discussed.