



PUBLIC NOTICE

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NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF CLOSED CAPTIONING EXEMPTION PETITION CG Docket No. 06-181

By this *Notice*, the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's or Commission's) Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (Bureau) announces the dismissal of the Petition of First United Methodist Church (FUMC) for exemption from the Commission's closed captioning requirements.¹

The Commission's closed captioning rules allow video programming providers, producers, or owners to obtain an exemption from the closed captioning requirements if they demonstrate that providing captions on their programming would be "economically burdensome."² FUMC filed a Petition for a closed captioning exemption under these rules.³ The Bureau then placed the petition on public notice.⁴ After reviewing the comments received in response to the Petition and similar petitions, the Bureau determined that it required additional and updated information to evaluate whether the programming at issue should be exempted from the FCC's closed captioning requirements because captioning such programming would impose an economic burden on the petitioners. The Bureau sent letters to FUMC requesting the additional and updated information.⁵ However, before complete supplemental information was received, and before the FCC determined whether to grant or deny the requests for an exemption, the petitioner informed the FCC, by email on September 30, 2014, that its Petition is withdrawn because its programming is now closed captioned, thereby rendering the Petition moot. On September 30, 2014, the FCC notified FUMC that its Petition is dismissed without prejudice. This *Notice* serves to notify the public that this Petition has been dismissed.

To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice) or 202-418-0432 (TTY). This *Public Notice* can also be downloaded in Word and Portable Document Format at <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/economically-burdensome-exemption-closed-captioning-requirements>. Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau Contacts: Suzy Rosen Singleton, (202) 510-9446, Suzanne.Singleton@fcc.gov.

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 79.1.

² 47 C.F.R. § 79.1(f).

³ Petition for Exemption from Christopher Fitzgerald, First United Methodist Church, to Office of Secretary, Federal Communications Commission (August 6, 2006); updated by letters dated May 29, 2012, August 23, 2012, and October 28, 2013.

⁴ See *Request for Comment/Request for Exemption from Commission's Closed Captioning Rules*, Public Notice, 27 FCC Rcd 12201 (2012).

⁵ See Letter from Roger Holberg, Attorney, Disability Rights Office, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, to Dr. Fitzgerald (Sept. 27, 2013).

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