



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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**AUXILIARY BROADCAST FREQUENCY COORDINATOR DESIGNATED
FOR THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION IN CLEVELAND, OHIO, THE
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION IN PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, AND
THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION IN WASHINGTON, DC.**

**GRANT OF WAIVER OF SEPARATION REQUIREMENTS OF 47 C.F.R. § 74.802 AND
SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATIONS**

By this *Public Notice*, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) and the Media Bureau (MB) designate Louis Libin, Chairman of the Frequency Coordinating Committee for the 2016 Political Conventions and 2017 Presidential Inauguration (“ElectionWireless2017”), as the single point of contact for coordinating operations during the Republican National Convention (RNC), Democratic National Convention (DNC), and the 2017 Presidential Inauguration. By this action, we facilitate the ability of broadcasters and cable network entities to cover these important events.

Broadcast Auxiliary Service (BAS) stations, which are licensed under Part 74 of the Commission’s rules,¹ make it possible for television and radio stations and networks to transmit program material from the sites of breaking news stories or other live events to television studios for inclusion in broadcast programs, to transmit programming material from studios to broadcasting transmitters for delivery to consumers’ televisions and radios, and to transmit programs between broadcast stations.² In addition to licensed BAS stations, Section 74.24 of the Commission’s rules allows eligible broadcasters to operate auxiliary broadcast stations on a short-term basis, not to exceed 720 hours annually, without prior Commission authorization.³

In addition to the operations discussed above, we note that the potential use of unlicensed next generation white space devices operating in the TV bands may present a new challenge for spectrum management at these events. We remind Low Power Auxiliary Service (*e.g.*, wireless microphone) licensees to register their operations with one of the approved white space databases to ensure protected operation.⁴

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 74.631(a). *See* Revisions to Broadcast Auxiliary Service Rules in Part 74 and Conforming Technical Rules for Broadcast Auxiliary Service, Cable Television Relay Service and Fixed Services in Parts 74, 78 and 101 of the Commission’s Rules, ET Docket No. 01-75, *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, 16 FCC Rcd 10556, 10557 ¶ 1 (2001).

² *Id.*

³ *See* 47 C.F.R. § 74.24.

⁴ White Space database administrators approved to date:
Spectrum Bridge: <http://whitespaces.spectrumbridge.com/Main.aspx>
iconectiv: <https://spectrum.iconectiv.com/main/home/>

Political conventions and inaugurations attract extensive broadcast coverage, and consequently require extensive use of wireless equipment.⁵ The broadcast networks and other major content distributors require major wireless communications infrastructures, along with spectrum, to support their video and audio transport.⁶ For these events of major public importance, there is no one broadcaster who holds rights to control spectrum.⁷

In connection with major events such as the 2013 Presidential Inauguration, and the 2012 National Political Conventions, the Commission designated auxiliary broadcast frequency coordinators and required prior coordination of all BAS operations, including operations pursuant to Section 74.24 of the Commission's rules.⁸ These actions were taken as a result of our concern that uncoordinated use of auxiliary broadcast stations on a special temporary authority basis might result in spectrum congestion and excessive interference, resulting in less complete broadcast coverage. We believe that the potential for a similar situation exists during the 2016 National Political Conventions and the 2017 Presidential Inauguration.

On May 20, 2016, ElectionWireless2017, which is an *ad hoc* frequency coordination group established by the broadcast networks, requested that Louis Libin, ElectionWireless2017's Chairman, be designated as a special frequency coordinator and RF spectrum manager for these events.⁹ ElectionWireless2017 states that its request is being filed with the consent of all domestic broadcasters, as well as the leadership of the Democratic and Republican parties.¹⁰ Under these circumstances, we find that appointment of Mr. Libin as a special frequency coordinator would facilitate full coverage of these important events and would serve the public interest.

Accordingly, we designate ElectionWireless2017's Chairman, Louis Libin, as the single point of contact for coordinating operations under Section 74.24 of the rules during the following time periods and locations: July 18 – 21, 2016 in Cleveland, Ohio for the Republican National Convention; July 25 - 28, 2016 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for the Democratic National Convention; and January 18 - 21, 2017, for the Presidential Inauguration and events in Washington, DC. This designation will allow for advance coordination of terrestrial auxiliary broadcast frequency usage within a 100 kilometer radius, and within a 150 kilometer radius for any mobile operations aboard aircraft, around the following locations:¹¹

- Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, Ohio¹²
- Wells Fargo Center and the Philadelphia Convention Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania¹³

Google: <https://www.google.com/get/spectrumdatabase/index.html>
Keybridge Global: <https://keybridgeglobal.com/whitespace/>
LS Telecom/Radiosoft: <https://www.whitespaceforum.com/>

⁵ Letter from Louis Libin, Chairman, ElectionWireless2017, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission (filed May 20, 2016) (“ElectionWireless2017 Request”) at 1-2.

⁶ *Id.* at 2. ElectionWireless2017 notes that government officials and public safety agencies also have extensive communications needs during these events.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ See Public Notice DA 12-1028.

⁹ ElectionWireless2017 Request.

¹⁰ *Id.* at 3.

¹¹ We remind licensees to consult FAA flight advisories for national special security events for airspace restrictions or other requirements.

¹² The center coordinates of the designated geographic area in Cleveland, OH (RNC) are 41-29-48N, 081-41-18W referenced to NAD83.

- The United States Capitol in Washington, DC¹⁴
- The White House in Washington, DC¹⁵

All short-term auxiliary broadcast use under Part 74, without exception, shall be coordinated in advance through the ElectionWireless2017 coordinator, Louis Libin. Mr. Libin can be reached for the purposes of frequency coordination by phone or fax at 516-374-6700 and at the email address, RFrequest@broad-comm.com. The local frequency coordinator will provide assistance and database access to all local and non-local Part 74 licensees, and Part 78 and 101 licensees authorized to share spectrum available under Part 74 in the designated areas, for temporary fixed, mobile, and portable installations.

ElectionWireless2017 also requests that the Commission grant a waiver of the distance separation requirement of Section 74.802 of the Commission's rules, to permit the use of low power auxiliary stations, not to exceed 2 watts of power, on channels allocated for TV broadcasting where the nearest operating station is located at least 40 kilometers from the event locations.¹⁶ According to ElectionWireless2017, these low power stations will be operated only inside the venues and the majority of the facilities will not exceed 200 milliwatts.¹⁷ In addition, ElectionWireless2017 states that each of the potentially affected stations has been contacted and is supportive of this request, and that ElectionWireless2017 "has done analysis and RF measurements at each venue to confirm that the proposed low power operation would not adversely affect these stations." In view of the foregoing, we grant the requested waiver.

All Part 74, 78, and 101 licensees sharing spectrum available under Part 74 of the Commission's rules, for temporary fixed, mobile, and portable installations and operating in the designated area are covered by this action. For technical inquiries, please contact Stephen Buenzow, Broadband Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at (202) 418-2487 or Sean Yun, Engineering Division, Media Bureau, at (202) 418-2193. For press inquiries, please contact Janice Wise of the Media Bureau at (202) 418-8165.

Action by Chiefs, Broadband Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and Engineering Division, Media Bureau.

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¹³ The center coordinates of the designated geographic areas in Philadelphia, PA (DNC) are 39-54-05N, 075-10-19W referenced to NAD83 for Wells Fargo Center and 39-57-18N, 075-09-35W referenced to NAD83 for the Philadelphia Convention Center.

¹⁴ The center coordinates of the designated geographic area in Washington, DC (US Capitol) are 38-53-22N, 077-00-39W referenced to NAD83.

¹⁵ The center coordinates of the designated geographic area in Washington, DC (White House) are 38-53-51N, 077-02-11W referenced to NAD83.

¹⁶ ElectionWireless2017 Request at 3.

¹⁷ *Id.*