

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In re Application of
Tu Voz, Inc.
For Renewal of License for
Station KBWE(FM)
Burley, Idaho
FRN: 0016964363
Facility ID No. 173150
Application File No. 0000157599

ORDER

Adopted: February 28, 2022

Released: February 28, 2022

By the Chief, Audio Division, Media Bureau:

1. In this Order, we adopt the attached Consent Decree entered into by the Media Bureau (Bureau) and Tu Voz, Inc. (Licensee), licensee of Station KBWE(FM), Burley, Idaho (Station). The Consent Decree resolves issues arising from the Bureau’s review of the captioned license renewal application (Application) for the Station. In particular, the Consent Decree resolves the Bureau’s investigation of Licensee’s compliance with the Filing Deadline Rule and the Online Public Inspection File Rule contained in sections 73.3539(a) and 73.3527 of the Commission’s rules (Rules).1 The Bureau’s Audio Division suspended processing of the Application because Licensee did not comply with its renewal application filing deadline and public file obligations.

2. The Bureau and Licensee have negotiated the attached Consent Decree in which Licensee stipulates that it violated sections 73.3539(a) and 73.3527 of the Rules. Pursuant to the Consent Decree, Licensee agrees, among other things, to implement a comprehensive compliance plan to ensure future compliance with its online public inspection file obligations and timely filing of renewal applications, and, one year after entering into the Consent Decree, submit a compliance report to the Audio Division.

3. After reviewing the terms of the Consent Decree, we find that the public interest will be served by its approval and by terminating all pending proceedings relating to the Bureau’s consideration of potential violations of the Rules.

4. Based on the record before us, we conclude that nothing in that record creates a substantial and material question of fact as to whether Licensee possesses the basic qualifications to remain a Commission licensee.

5. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to sections 4(i), 4(j), and 503(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,2 and by the authority delegated by sections 0.61 and 0.283 of the Rules,3 the Consent Decree attached hereto IS ADOPTED without change, addition, or modification.

6. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the investigation by the Media Bureau of the matters noted above IS TERMINATED.

1 See 47 CFR §§ 73.3539(a), 73.3527.

2 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 154(j), 503(b).

3 47 CFR §§ 0.61, 0.283.

7. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that copies of this Order shall be sent, by First Class and Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, Tu Voz, Inc., c/o Ruben Bautista, 1250 Overland Avenue, Burley, ID 83318, and to its counsel, Michael Couzens, Esq., PO Box 3642, Oakland, CA 94609.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Albert Shuldiner
Chief, Audio Division
Media Bureau

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CONSENT DECREE

Adopted: February 28, 2022

Released: February 28, 2022

1. The Media Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission and Tu Voz, Inc. (hereafter "Licensee," as defined below), by their authorized representatives, hereby enter into this Consent Decree for the purpose of terminating the Media Bureau's investigation into the Licensee's compliance with sections 73.3539(a) and 73.3527 of the Commission's rules relating to the timely filing of renewal applications and the maintenance of an online public inspection file. To resolve this matter, the Licensee agrees to implement a comprehensive Compliance Plan to ensure its future compliance with sections 73.3539(a) and 73.3527.

I. DEFINITIONS

- 2. For the purposes of this Consent Decree, the following definitions shall apply:
(a) "Act" means the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 151 et seq.
(b) "Adopting Order" means an Order of the Bureau adopting the terms of this Consent Decree without change, addition, deletion, or modification.
(c) "Application" means application of Tu Voz, Inc., for renewal of the radio broadcast license for station KBWE(FM), Application File No. 0000157599.
(d) "Bureau" means the Media Bureau of the Commission.
(e) "Commission" or "FCC" means the Federal Communications Commission and all of its bureaus and offices.
(f) "Compliance Plan" means the processes and procedures developed by the Licensee in an effort to ensure compliance with 47 CFR §§ 73.3527 and 73.3539(a) of the Rules.
(g) "Covered Employees" means all employees, volunteers, and agents of the Licensee, who are responsible for performing, supervising, overseeing, or managing activities related to the filing of timely renewal applications as required by the Filing Deadline Rule, and the maintenance of online public inspection files, as required by the Online Public Inspection File Rule.
(h) "Effective Date" means the date on which the Bureau releases the Adopting Order.
(i) "Filing Deadline Rule" means 47 CFR § 73.3539(a).

1 47 CFR §§ 73.3527, 73.3539(a).

- (j) “Investigation” means the Bureau’s decision to hold and not process the Licensee’s Application due to noncompliance sections 73.352 and 73.3539(a) of the Rules.
- (k) “Licensee” means Tu Voz, Inc., and its affiliates, subsidiaries, predecessors-in-interest, and successors-in-interest.
- (l) “Online Public Inspection File Rule” means 47 CFR § 73.3527.
- (m) “Parties” means the Licensee and the Bureau, each of which is a “Party.”
- (n) “Rules” means the Commission’s regulations found in Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- (o) “Station” means station KBWE(FM), Burley, Idaho.
- (p) “Violations” means the Licensee’s noncompliance with sections 73.3527 and 73.3539(a) of the Rules.

II. BACKGROUND

3. Section 73.3539(a) of the Rules requires that applications for renewal of license for broadcast stations must be filed “not later than the first day of the fourth full calendar month prior to the expiration date of the license sought to be renewed.”² An application for renewal of the Station’s license should have been filed by June 1, 2021, the first full business day following the first day of the fourth full calendar month prior to the Station’s license expiration date of October 1, 2021. The Station’s Application was not filed until August 18, 2021.

4. Section 73.3527 requires radio station licensees to maintain an online public inspection file and to upload certain documents to the Commission’s public inspection file database throughout the year.³ This includes among other requirements, the requirement that quarterly issues and programs lists be uploaded to the station’s online public inspection file no later than the tenth day after each quarter. It is crucial that stations maintain online public inspection files that are complete and up to date because the information in them directly affects, among other things, the public’s ability to be informed about a station’s compliance with its obligations.

5. The Licensee recently filed the Application to renew its radio station license. We have determined that the Licensee did not comply with either the Filing Deadline Rule or the Online Public Inspection File Rule. Specifically, as noted in paragraph 3 above, the Licensee failed to file the Application by June 1, 2021, and the Licensee failed to place any issues and programs lists in its online public file as required by the Online Public Inspection File Rule. Based on the Licensee’s failure to comply with the Filing Deadline Rule and the Online Public Inspection File Rule, the Bureau commenced the Investigation and suspended processing the Application.

6. The Bureau and Licensee have negotiated the terms of the Consent Decree that terminates the Investigation into the matters discussed above. As part of the Consent Decree, the Licensee has agreed to implement and maintain a Compliance Plan designed to ensure its future compliance with the Rules noted above for one (1) year after the Effective Date.⁴

III. TERMS OF AGREEMENT

7. **Adopting Order.** The provisions of this Consent Decree shall be incorporated by the Bureau in an Adopting Order.

² 47 CFR § 73.3539(a).

³ 47 CFR § 73.3527.

⁴ Licensee has demonstrated, through appropriate documentation, that payment of a civil penalty for its violation of the Filing Deadline Rule would result in a financial hardship.

8. **Jurisdiction.** The Licensee agrees that the Bureau has jurisdiction over it and the matters contained in this Consent Decree and has the authority to enter into and adopt this Consent Decree.

9. **Effective Date.** The Parties agree that this Consent Decree shall become effective on the Effective Date. As of the Effective Date, the Parties agree that this Consent Decree shall have the same force and effect as any other order of the Commission.

10. **Termination of Investigation.** In express reliance on the covenants and representations in this Consent Decree and to avoid further expenditure of public resources, the Bureau agrees to terminate the Investigation. In addition, the Bureau agrees to process the Application in the ordinary course. In consideration for such, the Licensee agrees to the terms, conditions, and procedures contained herein.

11. The Bureau agrees that, in the absence of new material evidence, the Bureau will not use the facts developed in this Investigation through the Effective Date, or the existence of this Consent Decree, to institute, on its own motion or in response to any petition to deny or other third-party objection, any new proceeding, formal or informal, or take any action on its own motion against the Licensee concerning the matters that were the subject of the Investigation. The Bureau also agrees that, in the absence of new material evidence, it will not use the facts developed in the Investigation through the Effective Date, or the existence of this Consent Decree, to institute on its own motion any proceeding, formal or informal, or to set for hearing the question of the Licensee's basic qualifications to be a Commission licensee or to hold Commission licenses or authorizations.⁵

12. **Admission of Liability.** The Licensee admits for the purpose of this Consent Decree that it failed to timely file its application for renewal of license, in violation of section 73.3539(a) of the Rules. Licensee also admits that it failed to maintain an online public inspection file, specifically, that it did not upload any issues and programs lists, in violation of section 73.3527 of the Rules during the Station's prior license term.

13. Pursuant to section 503(b)(2)(E) of the Act, in exercising its forfeiture authority, the Commission may consider, among other things, "any history of prior offenses" by the licensee.⁶ The Licensee acknowledges that the Commission or its delegated authority may consider the Licensee's admission of liability in this Consent Decree in proposing any future forfeiture against Licensee in the event the Licensee is determined to have apparently committed a violation of the Act, the Rules, or of any orders of the Commission after the Effective Date, whether related to the timely filing of applications or otherwise.

14. **Compliance Officer.** Within 30 calendar days after the Effective Date, the Licensee shall designate a responsible party to serve as a Compliance Officer and to discharge the duties set forth below. The Compliance Officer shall report directly to the Licensee's President (or equivalent senior officer/owner) on a regular basis, and shall be responsible for developing, implementing, and administering the Compliance Plan and ensuring that the Licensee complies with the terms and conditions of the Compliance Plan and this Consent Decree. The Compliance Officer shall have specific knowledge of the Filing Deadline Rule and the Online Public Inspection File Rule prior to assuming his/her duties. The Bureau acknowledges that the Compliance Officer, Chancellor, and/or Board Member may be the same individual.

15. **Compliance Plan.** For purposes of settling the matters set forth herein, the Licensee agrees that it shall, within 30 calendar days after the Effective Date, develop and implement a Compliance Plan designed to ensure future compliance with the Filing Deadline Rule and Online Public Inspection

⁵ See 47 CFR § 1.93(b).

⁶ See 47 U.S.C. § 503(b)(2)(E).

File Rule, and with the terms and conditions of this Consent Decree. The Compliance Plan shall contain, at a minimum, the following elements:

- A. **Compliance Manual.** The Compliance Plan shall include a Compliance Manual that is distributed to all Covered Employees. The Licensee may adopt a Compliance Manual that it has prepared or one that has been prepared by an outside source, such as a trade association (e.g., the National Association of Broadcasters), another licensee, or a law firm. The Compliance Manual shall:
- i. thoroughly explain the requirements embodied in the Online Public Inspection File Rule;
 - ii. contain Operating Procedures that Covered Employees must follow to help ensure the Licensee's compliance with the Online Public Inspection File Rule. The Operating Procedures shall include internal procedures and policies specifically designed to ensure that the Licensee's Station uploads all required information to its online public inspection files in a timely manner and otherwise maintain full, complete, and up to date information therein. The Operating Procedures shall also include a compliance checklist that describes the steps that a Covered Employee must follow to ensure compliance with the Online Public Inspection File Rule; and
 - iii. be periodically reviewed and revised as necessary to ensure that the information set forth therein remains current, complete, accurate, and effective.
- B. **Compliance Training Program.** If the Licensee has Covered Employees, the Compliance Plan shall include a compliance training program to provide periodic training to those Covered Employees on complying with the Online Public Inspection File Rule. As part of the compliance training program, Covered Employees shall be advised of the Licensee's obligation to report any noncompliance with the Online Public Inspection File Rule and shall be instructed on how to disclose noncompliance to the Compliance Officer. All Covered Employees shall receive initial training under the compliance training program within 30 calendar days after the Effective Date, except that any person who becomes a Covered Employee at any time after such initial training is provided shall receive training under the compliance training program within 30 calendar days after the date he or she becomes a Covered Employee. The Licensee shall provide training under the compliance training plan on at least an annual basis, and it shall periodically review and revise the compliance training program as necessary to ensure that it remains current, complete, and effective.
- C. **Compliance Report.** One year after entering into this Consent Decree, the Licensee shall submit a compliance report to the Bureau for the Station. The compliance report shall contain a certification of the Licensee's compliance with the Online Public Inspection File Rule during the previous year. The compliance report shall be submitted to the Bureau no later than 30 calendar days after the one-year anniversary of the Effective Date. The Bureau may, within its sole discretion, require the Licensee to submit more frequent or additional compliance reports in accordance with the terms of paragraph 20 below.
- i. The compliance report shall include a certification by the Compliance Officer stating that the Compliance Officer has personal knowledge that the Licensee: (i) has established and implemented the Compliance Plan; (ii) has utilized the operating procedures since the implementation of the Compliance Plan; and (iii)

is not aware of any instances of noncompliance with the terms and conditions of this Consent Decree.

- ii. The Compliance Officer's certification shall be accompanied by a statement explaining the basis for such certification and must comply with section 1.16 of the Rules,⁷ and be subscribed to as true under penalty of perjury in substantially the form set forth therein.
- iii. If the Compliance Officer is unable to provide the requisite certification, the Compliance Officer shall provide the Bureau with a report detailing the noncompliance, as described below.
- iv. The compliance report shall be submitted to the Audio Division staff: Alexander Sanjenis, Assistant Division Chief, at Alexander.Sanjenis@fcc.gov.

16. **Reporting Noncompliance.** The Licensee shall report any instance of noncompliance with the Online Public Inspection File Rule, and any instance of noncompliance with any applicable terms and conditions of this Consent Decree within 10 calendar days after discovery of such noncompliance. Such reports shall include a detailed explanation of: (i) each such instance of noncompliance; (ii) the steps that the Licensee has taken or will take to remedy such noncompliance, including the schedule on which such actions will be taken; and (iii) the steps that the Licensee has taken or will take to prevent the recurrence of any such noncompliance, including the schedule on which such preventative action will be taken. All reports of noncompliance shall be submitted to the Audio Division staff: Alexander Sanjenis, Assistant Division Chief, at Alexander.Sanjenis@fcc.gov.

17. **Termination Date.** The obligations to which the Licensee is subject pursuant to this Consent Decree shall terminate upon submission of the Compliance Report pursuant to Paragraph 17(c), provided the Bureau is satisfied that the Licensee has demonstrated substantial compliance with its obligations. If the Bureau is not satisfied that the Licensee has demonstrated substantial compliance with its obligations, the Bureau may, within its sole discretion and authority, extend the termination date of this Consent Decree for up to an additional 24 months.

18. **Further Violation(s).** The Licensee acknowledges that the Bureau retains the discretion and authority to propose sanctions against the Licensee, including the issuance of notices of apparent liability for forfeitures, for any apparent willful and/or repeated violation by the Licensee of the Online Public Inspection File Rule that occurs during the term of this Consent Decree.

19. **Qualifications; Agreement to Grant.** The Bureau finds that its Investigation raises no substantial and material questions of fact as to whether Licensee possess the basic qualifications, including those relating to character, to hold a Commission license or authorization. Accordingly, the Bureau agrees to grant the Application, after the Effective Date, provided that there are no issues other than the Violations that would preclude grant of the Application.

20. **Waivers.** As of the Effective Date, the Licensee waives any and all rights it may have to seek administrative or judicial reconsideration, review, appeal, or stay, or to otherwise challenge or contest the validity of this Consent Decree and the Adopting Order. The Licensee shall retain the right to challenge Commission interpretation of the Consent Decree or any terms contained herein. If either Party (or the United States on behalf of the Commission) brings a judicial action to enforce the terms of the Consent Decree or Adopting Order, neither the Licensee nor the Commission shall contest the validity of the Consent Decree or the Adopting Order, and the Licensee shall waive any statutory right to a trial *de*

⁷ 47 CFR § 1.16.

novo. The Licensee hereby agrees to waive any claims it may have under the Equal Access to Justice Act⁸ relating to the matters addressed in this Consent Decree.

21. **Severability**. The Parties agree that if any of the provisions of the Consent Decree shall be held unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such unenforceability shall not render unenforceable the entire Consent Decree, but rather the entire Consent Decree shall be construed as if not containing the particular unenforceable provision or provisions, and the rights and obligations of the Parties shall be construed and enforced accordingly.

22. **Invalidity**. In the event that this Consent Decree in its entirety is rendered invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, it shall become null and void and may not be used in any manner in any legal proceeding.

23. **Subsequent Rule or Order**. The Parties agree that if any provision of this Consent Decree conflicts with any subsequent Rule or Order adopted by the Commission (except an order specifically intended to revise the terms of this Consent Decree to which the Licensee does not expressly consent) that provision will be superseded by such Rule or Order.

24. **Successors and Assigns**. The Licensee agrees that the provisions of this Consent Decree shall be binding on its successors, assigns, and transferees.

25. **Final Settlement**. The Parties agree and acknowledge that this Consent Decree shall constitute a final settlement between the Parties with respect to the Investigation.

26. **Modifications**. This Consent Decree cannot be modified without the advance written consent of both Parties.

27. **Paragraph Headings**. The headings of the paragraphs in this Consent Decree are inserted for convenience only and are not intended to affect the meaning or interpretation of this Consent Decree.

28. **Authorized Representative**. Each Party represents and warrants to the other that it has full power and authority to enter into this Consent Decree. Each person signing this Consent Decree on behalf of a Party hereby represents that he or she is fully authorized by the Party to execute this Consent Decree and to bind the Party to its terms and conditions.

⁸ See 5 U.S.C. § 504; 47 CFR §§ 1.1501-1.1530.

29. **Counterparts.** This Consent Decree may be signed in counterpart (including electronically or by facsimile). Each counterpart, when executed and delivered, shall be an original, and all of the counterparts together shall constitute one and the same fully executed instrument.



Albert Shuldiner
Chief, Audio Division
Media Bureau

2/28/2022

Date



Ruben Bautista
Tu Voz, Inc.

Feb 15, 2022

Date