

## CONCURRING STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER MICHAEL O'RIELLY

*Re: Atlantic City Board of Education Applications for Renewal of License and For Minor Modifications of Licensed Facilities of WAJM(FM), Atlantic City, New Jersey and Press Communications, LLC Application for Minor Modification of Licensed Facilities of WBHX(FM), Tuckerton, New Jersey*

I concur in the result reached by this order. While it achieves an acceptable conclusion consistent with past precedent, the item highlights a fairly major discrepancy in our treatment of late license renewal applications depending on whether they are filed with the Media Bureau or the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. As the order acknowledges, the Commission consistently has allowed broadcast station licenses to be renewed even when the license term expired long before the renewal application was filed. This seems inappropriate and problematic: we ought not have different standards for deadlines based on the service being offered and we ought not allow late filings.

Given the importance of licenses for many services the Commission oversees, it would behoove all licensees to file their renewal applications either early or on time. In fact, the vast majority of broadcasters already do this. Thus, a deadline should mean just that.

In light of this, I suggest that the Commission should examine, with proper notice, whether the discrepancy in the treatment of the two types of renewal applications should be eliminated, and possibly take action to equalize the treatment of these licensees with emphasis given to timely filings.