

Equal Time Issue/Request

On Monday, October 28, 2019, WBT-AM/FM was made aware of an issue via Facebook regarding Equal Time for candidates.

The issue was that a paid program, Your Real Estate Today with Paul Jamison, had several sitting officials as on-air guests on Saturday, October 26, 2019. These guests were also incumbents for the November 5, 2019 election. They included:

Paul Bailey – Mayor of Matthews

John Urban – Commissioner

Jeff Miller – Commissioner

After being made aware of the seemingly one-sided content, station put forth the offer to other candidates for the local elections to have air time in a similar day part on Saturday, November 2, 2019. Candidates included were:

John Higdon – Mayoral Candidate for Matthews

Larry Whitley – Commissioner Candidate

Renee Garner – Commissioner Candidate

Correspondence regarding the issue and its resolution follow:

Catrina Wiles

From: Mike Schaefer
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 1:15 PM
To: Catrina Wiles
Subject: Equal Time 1

From: Heather Furr
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2019 12:35 PM
To: Mike Schaefer <Mike.Schaefer@entercom.com>
Subject: Jamison - Listener Note.FB

Hey Mike,

You may want to take a listen to the show and see if there's any truth to this message. Let me know!



Grace McLain
Assigned to WBT



10:16 AM

My husband heard some of the Paul Jamison show Saturday with Matthews Mayor Paul Bailey and John Urban and Miller. I think he said, and he said it sounded like a campaign ad for them with asking about his plans for Matthews in second term, etc. Bailey is being challenged by Commissioner John Higdon and the others are also in race to keep their seats. Is WBT going to give equal time to the other candidates this week? I respectfully request that you do so. I know Jamison is a news show, but that line up and show were advertising for them. Thank you.



Catrina Wiles

From: Mike Schaefer
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 1:16 PM
To: Katrina Wiles
Subject: Equal Time 2

From: Mike Schaefer
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2019 3:39 PM
To: john@electjohnhigdon.com
Cc: Mark Garrison <Mark.Garrison@entercom.com>
Subject: WBT

Mr. Higdon:

Thank you for your time this afternoon. I wanted to recap our conversation about having you record an interview to air on WBT.

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Please provide Mark, copied here, with some links to relevant biographies, etc., for you and your planned guests (including their names, and their corresponding information). This will allow him to prepare properly and allow you all the forum requested. Mark will plan for four segments of roughly eight to ten minutes each.

Mark can be reached at:

Mark.Garrison@Entercom.com
704.998.1426

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Should you need anything between now and your scheduled recording time, please do not hesitate to call my cell, 818.635.0641.

Thank you.

Mike Schaefer
Program Director, News Talk 1110 & 99.3 WBT

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m: 704.951.7529
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The Link (WLNK-FM)



Catrina Wiles

From: Mike Schaefer
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 1:16 PM
To: Katrina Wiles
Subject: Equal Time 3

From: Mike Schaefer
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 8:42 AM
To: john@electjohnhigdon.com
Cc: Mark Garrison <Mark.Garrison@entercom.com>
Subject: RE: WBT

Good morning, Mr. Higdon. I'm just following up. Are you all set, or is anything else needed to confirm plans for recording these segments?

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Catrina Wiles

From: Mike Schaefer
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 1:16 PM
To: Catrina Wiles
Subject: Equal Time 4

From: John Higdon [mailto:john@electjohnhigdon.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 10:28 AM
To: Mike Schaefer <Mike.Schaefer@entercom.com>
Cc: Mark Garrison <Mark.Garrison@entercom.com>; Larry Whitley <lwhitmtmoriah@carolina.rr.com>; reneeformatthews@gmail.com
Subject: Re: WBT

Good Morning Mike:

I will be joined by two Matthews Commissioner candidates - Larry Whitley and Renee Garner. I have asked each to send Mr. Garrison their biographical information. Mine can be found at www.electjohnhigdon.com. We would like to schedule the interview for tomorrow at noon.

Again - thank you so much for accommodating our request for airtime.

John

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Catrina Wiles

From: Mike Schaefer
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 1:17 PM
To: Catrina Wiles
Subject: Equal Time 5

From: Mike Schaefer
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 1:47 PM
To: John Higdon <john@electjohnhigdon.com>
Cc: Mark Garrison <Mark.Garrison@entercom.com>; Larry Whitley <lwhitmtmoriah@carolina.rr.com>; reneeforMatthews@gmail.com
Subject: RE: WBT

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Catrina Wiles

From: Mike Schaefer
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 1:17 PM
To: Catrina Wiles
Subject: Equal Time 6

From: Renee Garner [mailto:reneeformatthews@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 3:17 PM
To: Mike Schaefer <Mike.Schaefer@entercom.com>
Cc: John Higdon <john@electjohnhigdon.com>; Mark Garrison <Mark.Garrison@entercom.com>; Larry Whitley <lwhitmtmoriah@carolina.rr.com>
Subject: Re: WBT

Here's my bio:

Renee Garner's roots run deep in Matthews – she is a third-generation resident, living in the house her grandfather built.

Among many other things, Renee is an artist, community leader, businesswoman, wife and mother. Renee's town involvement began when she led the charge against the John Street widening. She organized her neighbors into Preserve Matthews, learned to navigate NCDOT's murky depths to keep residents informed, and served on the John Street Working Group to find a Matthews friendly solution. Her years of hard work and determination in the face of opposition and harassment from those with interest in the project culminated in success just this year when NCDOT announced they would delay the project for six years.

Renee also serves the county on an advisory board to the Mecklenburg Arts & Science Council, and she is the current president of the NC Herb Association. She has also spent many hours volunteering at the Matthews Community Farmers Market.

An avid gardener and lover of nature, Renee plants her "yarden" with a focus on environmentally sustainable practices. Professionally, Renee studied Fiber Arts at UNCC and has spent the years since creating her own art as well as designing graphics for others' marketing materials and websites.

Renee is co-founder and co-owner of The Matthews Beacon, a local news website created to help the citizens of Matthews stay informed and engaged in their community.

As a Commissioner, Renee aims to continue her work to preserve Matthews' small-town charm through smart growth, community engagement, and environmental stewardship.

On Thu, Oct 31, 2019 at 1:46 PM Mike Schaefer <Mike.Schaefer@entercom.com> wrote:

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Program Director

News Talk 1110 & 99.3 WBT

From: John Higdon [mailto:john@electjohnhigdon.com]

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Cc: Mark Garrison <Mark.Garrison@entercom.com>; Larry Whitley <lwhitmtmoriah@carolina.rr.com>; reneeformatthews@gmail.com

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Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 8:42 AM

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Cc: Mark Garrison <Mark.Garrison@entercom.com>

Subject: RE: WBT

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Catrina Wiles

From: Mike Schaefer
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 1:18 PM
To: Katrina Wiles
Subject: Equal Time 7

From: John Higdon [mailto:john@electjohnhigdon.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 3:37 PM
To: Mike Schaefer <Mike.Schaefer@entercom.com>
Subject: Re: WBT

Thanks Mike.

I listen to Mark Garrison regularly and know he is a consummate professional. We are indeed in good hands.

John

From: Mike Schaefer <Mike.Schaefer@entercom.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 1:46 PM
To: John Higdon <john@electjohnhigdon.com>
Cc: Mark Garrison <Mark.Garrison@entercom.com>; Larry Whitley <lwhitmtmoriah@carolina.rr.com>; reneeformatthews@gmail.com <reneeformatthews@gmail.com>
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Catrina Wiles

From: Mike Schaefer
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 1:40 PM
To: Katrina Wiles; Rob Waldron
Subject: RE: Equal Time/Public File

The show is Your Real Estate Today with Paul Jamison. The candidates that were guests on the show for the "offense" are...

Matthews Mayor – Paul Bailey
Commissioner – John Urban
Commissioner – Jeff Miller

All are sitting elected officials and current candidates for office next Tuesday.

This Saturday from 5p – 6p, we will create a show to be hosted by Mark Garrison, dealing with the upcoming election, which will be our "resolution" and in which Mark will interview...

Matthews Mayoral Candidate John Higdon
Commissioner Candidate Larry Whitley
Commissioner Candidate Renee Garner

Thanks.
Mike

From: Katrina Wiles
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 1:28 PM
To: Mike Schaefer <Mike.Schaefer@entercom.com>; Rob Waldron <Rob.Waldron@entercom.com>
Subject: RE: Equal Time/Public File

Got it – I will create something – can you get me names of candidates or whatever?

From: Mike Schaefer
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 1:27 PM
To: Katrina Wiles <Catrina.Wiles@entercom.com>; Rob Waldron <Rob.Waldron@entercom.com>
Subject: RE: Equal Time/Public File

Filling Rob in on our updated conversation. I asked Laura if there were specific procedures or processes for putting this issue in the public file.

Her response was something to the effect of, "I don't think (maybe 'I don't know if?') there are specific forms, but Rob and Katrina would know how to do it."

Catrina, she said that we need to document the original air date, time, and station of the original "offense", and the same information for our "resolution" (giving the equal time on air).

The "offense" happened on WBT, Saturday, October 26, from 2p – 3p, ET. The "resolution" will take place on WBT, Saturday, November 2, from 5p – 6p, ET.

From: Catrina Wiles

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 12:34 PM

To: Rob Waldron <Rob.Waldron@entercom.com>; Mike Schaefer <Mike.Schaefer@entercom.com>

Subject: RE: Equal Time/Public File

Hey Mike,

As you and I discussed with Matt yesterday, we need you to ask Laura what documentation needs to be uploaded. There are no issues with doing the uploading but we need to know what paperwork needs to be included.

Is there a form? Are we supposed to have a copy of the logs?

If you could reach out to Laura regarding that it would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,

Catrina

From: Rob Waldron

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 12:31 PM

To: Mike Schaefer <Mike.Schaefer@entercom.com>; Rob Waldron <Rob.Waldron@entercom.com>; Catrina Wiles <Catrina.Wiles@entercom.com>

Subject: Re: Equal Time/Public File

Yep i know nothing of how that works.

I typically only handle technical aspects and uploads for backup

Catrina do you know more?

Not sure why they keep referencing me when they explicitly took engineering out of the Public files responsibility years ago.

What I usually do is look at what was done previous years and copy that.

Do you have fcc public file site logins?

----- Original message-----

From: Mike Schaefer

Date: Thu, Oct 31, 2019 12:24 PM

To: Rob Waldron; Catrina Wiles;

Cc:

Subject: Equal Time/Public File

Catrina, I know you're already aware of this, but I wasn't sure if Rob had been looped in yet.

Rob, in case you don't know yet, last weekend, one of our paid program hosts had three candidates for office on during his infomercial hour. The opponents of those candidates have contacted the station regarding equal time. I've handled arranging that for them, and we will be "straight" with the on-air side this weekend.

Laura Berman in ETM Legal has given me some info, and one additional thing we need to do is to document this incident in the public file. She specifically used both of your names as people that know how to do this.

I realize the truth of that statement might fall somewhere between, "Yep. I got this." and "WTF!?"

Can we meet at some point soon to figure it out? Thanks.

Mike Schaefer

Program Director, News Talk 1110 & 99.3 WBT

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