

WSES

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

3Q19

The current licensee HSH Birmingham (WCFT) Licensee, LLC ("HSH"), acquired the station, WSES(TV), from TV Alabama Inc. on February 27, 2015. See BALCDT-20140100CIL.

As the Commission is aware, and in connection with the Allbritton transaction, the WSES station license was slated to be surrendered October 1, 2014. See DA-14-1055 (rel July 25, 2014). On September 1, 2014, 30 days prior to the October 1 surrender deadline, the above referenced assignment application was filed and accepted for filing. As a result, the station license was not surrendered on October 1, 2014. However, due to the complex nature of the then proposed transaction; the station's normal programming was interrupted. HSH is in the process of implementing procedures which would allow the station to broadcast and highlight the important issues relevant to Tuscaloosa and the surrounding DMA. One step the Licensee has taken is to secure a new affiliation for its station. Beginning October, 2015, the stations new affiliation will be Heroes & Icons. This agreement allows the Licensee more opportunity for local preemptions to cover issues which affect the Birmingham area.

Another step that was taken was by an employee planning and filming a project about payday loans. This project was to show how these loans can often lead to owing a larger amount than the person originally borrowed and to show the people of Alabama ways to avoid the problem or make an informed decision

It should be noted that the station's original call sign, WCFT (TV) was changed to WSES on March 11, 2015.

Each quarter we try to focus on different issues that we think will be beneficial to our audience. This quarter we focused on a variety of issues via “The Armstrong Williams Show” as well as going out to get some local opinions on matters. We focused on medical debt in one show and how it can lead to bankruptcy and even be a silent killer to the people. We had medical personal, other experts, as well as regular people weighing in on the effect everyone. This type of show led us to shows that focused on health issues and how important it is to stay active so we can keep some of them at bay. We did several shows that focused on the government. We talked about our trade with China and how the political climates can improve or ruin those relationships. We even talked about the money and resources that the government is using, talking to people about how they feel about it. Do they find it wasteful? We even went out to find out about service members lives and how important sleep is for them to be able to properly live and do their jobs. This quarter we were able to attend the National Black Farmers Convention in Alabama as well as have some conversations with Millennial farmers to see what kind of issues they face. The oversights as well as farming in a modern world. Close to Christmas we talked to a couple of organizations that focus on providing presents, food, and other necessities to the elderly and veterans who might not have any family or others to be with during the holidays.