

WSES
ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT
2Q19

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.

During the second quarter we have gone out into the community to talk about drug addiction. We have talked to shelters, the Lovelady Center, that help women who are escaping abusive relationships. We even hosted Ben Carson in a local town hall event to talk about Opportunity Zones and how they can improve our underserved communities. We brought in other people from local organizations that work in the same field trying to attract investors into our communities by explaining tax breaks and other benefits they will receive.