

Edward T. Finan

1935 Henry Street
Bellmore, New York 11710-3213
516-679-3051
EFINAN317@aol.com

X Publicly
@

17 February 2014

Mr. David Widmer, General Manger
K-98.3 Radio
234 Airport Plaza Boulevard
Farmingdale, New York 11735

Dear Mr. Widmer,

My name is Eddie Finan, and I am a member of the Long Island Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender (GLBT) Community. I am very active in several GLBT organizations on Long Island, including Long Island Community Fellowship (LICF), the Island's only GLBT church.

I am a very long-time listener of your radio station. I have been listening to K-98.3 for at least fifteen years. You can, therefore, imagine how disheartened that I was by the recent actions of your morning show DJs, Steve Harvey and Leeana Karlson. To fabricate a story about such a sensitive issue shows a total disregard for not only the GLBT Community of Long Island, but the entire GLBT Community at large. They wished to "initiate a discourse about a passionate topic." One does not initiate a discourse about a topic by fabricating a story. This was, in fact, a gross misuse of their positions at the radio station. They deceived every one of their listeners.

On Sunday, 16 February 2014, I filed a complaint online with the FCC against Mr. Harper and Ms. Karlson, and I know that several of my friends of the GLBT Community of Long Island have done the same. I had filed this complaint **prior** to learning of the suspension of Mr. Harper and Ms. Karlson. Please understand that I would have filed the complaint in any event (even if I had known about the suspension) because I believe that it is important that the FCC be aware of this incredible lack of judgment.

I do wish to say, however, that I applaud your decision to suspend the two DJs. I am very pleased that you have seen fit to take the necessary steps to rectify the situation to the best of your ability. I understand that you have been in contact with Dr. David Kilmnick of the Long Island GLBT Services Network. This

certainly indicates that you are willing to work with GLBT Community to ensure that an incident such as this does not occur again. For that, I am very grateful to you.

I would be more than happy to speak with you further if you wish. You now have my contact information and I invite to reach out to me at any time. Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eddie Finan".

Edward T. Finan

In a message dated 2/25/2014 2:04:59 P.M. Eastern Standard Time,
Dave.Widmer@ConnoisseurLI.Com writes.

Eddie-

I want to thank you for writing me and for taking me my call.

I'm glad we were able to talk and discuss the issues over the last week at K98.3 and I appreciate your support of how we handled the situation. Not to mention your past loyalty to our station and your pledge to continue listening. Thank you.

Again, I understand and respect your decision to file a complaint with the FCC. As I explained, I have talked to a number of people who took similar actions and after having been satisfied that we took the right steps with the necessary measures, withdrew their complaints. That decision, of course, is entirely up to you.

Regardless, by way of this email, you now have my email and contact information (below). Please feel free to reach out to me to further discuss this issue or to make us aware of any pertinent community information you think we should have.

Eddie, again thanks for reaching out.

Sincerely-

Dave

Dave Widmer-GM/Market Manager

Connoisseur Media Long Island

234 Airport Plaza/Suite 5

Farmingdale, NY 11735

631-770-4200 x444

516-428-5684 cell

Dave.widmer@ConnoisseurLI.com



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631-770-4200 x444

516-428-5684 cell

Dave.widmer@ConnoisseurLI.com



CONNOISSEUR MEDIA LONG ISLAND



From: EFINAN317@aol.com [mailto:EFINAN317@aol.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 2:23 PM

To: Dave.Widmer@ConnoisseurLI.Com

Subject: Re: Thank you

Dave,

First and foremost, thank you so much for reaching out to me. What an amazing conversation. Secondly, I have just gone to the FCC website. Complaint withdrawn. I am very satisfied with the way in which you have handled the situation.

I mentioned my own volunteer work within the Long Island LGBT Community. My two main organizations are,

Auntie M's Helping Hands, Inc. (www.amhh.org). AMHH has just celebrated its 13th anniversary (February 3rd, to be specific). We organize fundraising events and with the proceeds, we financially assist organizations and individuals within the LGBT Community who are in need of support. In our 13 years, we have disbursed approximately \$50,000 to the Community.

Long Island Community Fellowship (www.licf.net) is a small church which ministers to the LGBT Community. Our congregation is predominantly LGBT, though not exclusively. Remember---God loves straight people, too. LOL!!! I work as the Outreach Coordinator for this church so I'm always trying to get the word out there. We are currently physically located in Bay Shore (Sunday services at 10 AM every week), but we are moving to a larger location in West Babylon---as soon as we cut red tape and paperwork, etc.

Additionally, I serve on the Boards of the Long Island LGBT Film Festival, The LGBT Democrats of Long Island, and I am proud to be the "Token Gay Male" (a title that I humorously created myself) of the Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) Planning Committee. TDOR is a service held in a different church each year which honors those who were brutally murdered just because of the fact that they were transgendered.

Again, great to talk to you. I hope that this is the "start of a beautiful friendship" as I would enjoy keeping up a dialogue with you.

Thank you so much, Dave.

My Best,

Eddie Finan

Edward T. Finan

All Around Nice Guy...Always Here to Help!

No Thanks Necessary....Just an Occasional Cheesecake!

516-232-6262 (Cell Phone)

EFINAN317@aol.com

A Message from Steve & Leeana (Friday, 7pm)

Dear K-98.3 Listeners,

On Wednesday, we told you the story of Sophia's birthday party, and one parent's objection to the same-sex household of Sophia's parents. We also posted the invitation on our Facebook page, and invited comments from our followers.

This story was, in fact, totally fictitious, and created by the two of us. This was done without the knowledge of K-98.3 management or ownership.

We were attempting to spur a healthy discourse on a highly passionate topic, but we made a mistake by misleading our listeners into thinking that this specific situation actually existed.

We are very sorry that we perpetuated this falsehood, even after it was clear that it had taken on a 'life of its own.' We deeply apologize for violating your trust, and we will work hard to regain that trust.

Sincerely,

Steve & Leeana

A Message from K-98.3 Management (Sunday)

K-98.3 Suspends Morning Show

[Farmingdale, NY – February 16, 2014] – Wednesday, February 12, 2014, the K-98.3 (WKJY) Morning Show with Steve and Leeana aired a story about a girl's birthday party and one parent's objection to the same-sex situation of that girl's parents.

After this aired, it was brought to K-98.3 management's attention that all the details of the story were completely fabricated independently by Steve and Leeana. This was done without the knowledge of K-98.3 management or ownership. The story, presented as a real event, was, in

fact, fictitious. An internal investigation was quickly launched which has resulted in the immediate suspension of Steve Harper and Leeana Karlson from the K-98.3 Morning Show.

In effort to move forward, K-98.3 has been speaking with local community organizations, such as the Long Island GLBT Services Network, to ensure the fabricated story does not result in further damages with respect to the GLBT community.

"We applaud the quick and decisive actions from the management team at K-98.3 FM. While we don't agree with how the information was presented by Steve and Leeana, we do recognize the impact and importance of fostering discussions of this important and sensitive social issue. I look forward to continuing this discussion on the K-98.3 Morning Show with Steve and Leeana upon their return", said David Kilmnick, Chief Executive Officer, Long Island GLBT Services Network.

"K-98.3 has been serving Long Island for over 25 years and we respect the important role we play in the lives of our listeners. We deeply value our relationship with our listeners and are committed to providing them with the highest level of service because they deserve the very best. I sincerely apologize for the actions of Steve and Leeana, their insensitivity to the hurt it may have caused anyone, and for the breach of trust these actions have caused", said Dave Widmer, GM/Market Manager, Connoisseur Media Long Island.