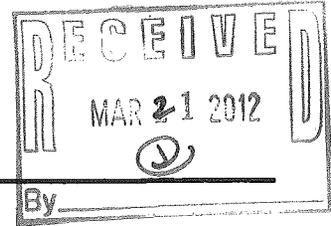


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**Statement of Elesha Barnette
California Representative
Minority Media and Telecommunications Council (MMTC)
Before the City Council of Los Angeles
March 20, 2012**

Thank you for this opportunity to present the views of the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council (MMTC) on proposed Resolution 12-0342.

Throughout our 25-year history as the nation's leading advocacy organization for diversity in the media, MMTC has consistently demanded that our free airwaves be free of race and gender stereotyping.

MMTC has endorsed the National Hispanic Media Coalition's (NHMC) petition to the FCC that asks it to monitor and maintain statistics on hate speech. By granting NHMC's petition, the FCC would empower radio listeners to "vote" with their radio dial. Listening drives ratings and ratings drive revenue. Without listeners the programming will stop.

Research shows that we're not born with a propensity for racial and gender stereotyping. These behaviors are learned, and they're repeated and validated by the media. Thus, MMTC believes that all broadcasters trusted with the stewardship of the airwaves – not just KFI, but all radio and television operators – should produce content

that is thoughtful, open to diverse opinion and produces dialogue without hateful attacks.

The Resolution under consideration today makes a good statement. It asks for action without government regulation. You are asking broadcasters to make the right changes to their programming while also protecting the First Amendment and the Communications Act. The Resolution appropriately condemns hateful language that has no place on the air. It encourages broadcasters to do the right thing.

I'd like to add that MMTC knows Clear Channel well. Our media brokerage has sold 45 of Clear Channel's stations to minorities, and we're using six of Clear Channel's stations to train minorities and women to be broadcast owners.

Clear Channel Los Angeles, to its credit, has taken a direct approach to using its over the air assets to make a landmark impact on the issue of multiculturalism. Last week, KTLK launched a new weekday morning show, Diverse LA. The premise of Diverse LA is to bring new voices and new topics to the radio dial and build the community's understanding of diversity.

Diverse LA is especially noteworthy because it's the first talk show of its kind on commercial radio in the United States. Some have criticized the show because KTLK's audience is smaller than KFI's audience. That's a fair criticism, but it discounts the power of radio and the Internet. KTLK reaches a good portion of the LA community, and, for people like me who listen to radio on the Internet, KTLK streams its programs live on the iHeart Radio platform. So not only does the Internet allow Angelinas to tune in, the show draws

listeners from all over the world to hear the diverse voices of Los Angeles.

My friends and I love Diverse LA and all that it stands for, and we're initiating a campaign to increase awareness of Diverse LA, to support the show and Mo' Kelly, its young African American producer. I encourage all of us to support Diverse LA by listening in and engaging.

The proposed Resolution is balanced. It chastises but does not condemn. It embraces the necessity for our free over-the-air broadcasting to be civil and respectful of all. Thus it is a privilege for MMTC to commend the Resolution to you for approval.