

HOLIDAY CAROLERS TO DEBUT MEDIA-THEMED SONGS IN DOWNTOWN CHICAGO SINGALONG

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Where: Right outside the Tribune Tower, 435 N. Michigan Ave., downtown Chicago

When: Friday, December 7, 2007 -- from 5:00 pm to 6:30pm

A group of holiday carolers will debut a series of media-and-politics-themed songs just outside of the Tribune Tower on Michigan Avenue starting at 5pm on Friday, December 7, 2007.

The action, dubbed “The 2007 Chicago Media Action Holiday Singalong”, will highlight the growing concern among Chicagoans to the plight of increasing concentration within Chicago’s media and its impact on Chicagoans.

The Singalong, organized by the Chicago-area media advocacy group Chicago Media Action, is scheduled right outside Tribune Tower because the Tribune Company arguably stands as the biggest beneficiary of a proposed controversial rule change at the Federal Commercial Commission. The FCC granted a controversial series of waivers to the Tribune on November 30, 2007 which let the Tribune its current TV-newspaper duopolies (which otherwise would have been illegal amidst the Tribune’s sale to billionaire Sam Zell).

For years, the Tribune has been advocating for the removal of FCC rules which would otherwise prevent the concentration of ownership, at the detriment of locally-responsive, locally-owned, more diverse media. An FCC attempt in 2003 to change those rules was blocked by an outside court which heard unprecedented bipartisan public objections on the issue.

Songs to debut at the Singalong include “The FCC’s 12 Days of Christmas“, and “Oh Sam Zell” (set to the tune “Jingle Bells”). Here is an excerpt of the lyrics to the songs slated for the Singalong, “Sell The Cubs” (set to the tune “Deck the Halls”):

Sell the Cubs and give free passes.
Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la
Opiate for the masses
Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la
Maybe folks won’t see our deals.
Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la
We’ll still get our Christmas steals.
Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la

Some 800 people attended an FCC media ownership hearing in Chicago on September 20, 2007 addressing the very topic. Estimates of the feedback ratio submitted to the FCC on the media ownership question stand at more than 99 to 1 opposed to further media concentration.

To learn more about the topic or about Chicago Media Action, go online to www.chicagomediaaction.org