



Independence Media Relinquishing Broadcast License

Non-Profit Will Continue to Build on Three Decades of Public Media Service

PHILADELPHIA – (April 13, 2017) Independence Public Media of Philadelphia, Inc., which operates public television station WYBE Channel 35 and MiND, today announced it is relinquishing its broadcast license as part of the Federal Communications Commission’s Broadcast Incentive Auction.

Independence Media will receive a one-time payment of \$131.5 million from the FCC in exchange for the license. As part of the Broadcast Incentive Auction, the FCC is purchasing licenses from public broadcasters to make spectrum available for wireless broadband use.

Independence Media will terminate its broadcast, cable, and satellite television services after the FCC completes the auction and distributes the proceeds to television stations across the country. Independence Media broadcasts on channel 35 and operates on cable systems as MiND. Independence Media, a non-profit corporation, will remain in operation.

“Although our television broadcasting will end, Independence Media will continue to pursue its mission,” said Rene DeGeorge Smith, chair of the Independence Media Board of Directors. “Now more than ever, we believe in the power of media and new technologies to connect communities, promote diversity and encourage understanding.”

Independence Media intends to develop a strategic plan to guide its future activities. Work on the plan will begin immediately.

Independence Media operates four broadcast channels that are also seen on cable and satellite systems. Many of the programs and services seen on those channels are currently available for free on the internet. The Philadelphia market will continue to be served by public broadcast television stations WHYY, WLVT and NJTV.

After several years of discussions with community members, business people and industry leaders, Independence Media decided in 2016 to enter the Broadcast Incentive Auction.

“The internet, mobile, social media, interactive media and short-form video are changing the ways we consume media and the ways we learn and communicate,” said Independence Media CEO Howard Blumenthal. “Our organization is very excited about the future.”

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Contact:

Tom Gailey, GaileyMurray Communications

tgailey@gaileymurray.com