

TO: mgccomments@state.ma.us

CC: info@focusspringfield.com

SUBJECT: 2017 Community Mitigation Fund Applications

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regard to the recent news that FOCUS Springfield will be evicted from their current facility and forced to find a new one. While this news is unfortunate, and sad to hear I know that the dedicated staff at FOCUS will continue to work tirelessly to bring the best content they can to community television.

I personally have never produced a show with FOCUS but I have been a consumer of their content for several years. The Live @ FOCUS music series is especially entertaining and extremely well recorded. It has opened my eyes to the music community in my own backyard that I may never have been aware of otherwise.

I have had the chance to watch this show live and have also noticed an aspect that may be overlooked. FOCUS allows students from various high schools in the Springfield area to intern and learn how to use professional video and audio equipment. Having access to this type of education is critical to the future success of not only FOCUS but the arts in general within our community. It is helping to build a passion for television production, and allow these students a window into what a career in the field can be.

The facility used for this series is critical to the success of the program. If FOCUS is unable to secure enough funding to adequately replace their current facility programs like Live @ FOCUS may go away, and we could lose that insight into the culture and talent that lies in the Pioneer Valley. In my mind FOCUS is an integral part of our community and is well worth the investment.

Thank you,
John Smith
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