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For Immediate Release

FCC ISSUES WARNINGS TO THIRTEEN NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA LANDOWNERS FOR ILLEGAL PIRATE RADIO BROADCASTS

Landowners Prohibited from Aiding Pirate Radio Operations Under PIRATE Act

WASHINGTON, July 11, 2024—The FCC's Enforcement Bureau today issued warnings to thirteen landowners in the New York metropolitan area for apparently allowing illegal radio broadcasting from their properties. The targets of today's warnings could face fines up to nearly \$2.4 million if the FCC determines that a party continues to permit any individual or entity to engage in pirate radio broadcasting from any property that they own or manage.

The Notices of Illegal Pirate Radio Broadcasting sent today target properties identified by field agents as sources of pirate radio transmissions in Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Spring Valley, New York, and in Newark and Irvington, New Jersey. These notices formally notify landowners of the illegal broadcasting activity occurring on their property; inform landowners of their potential liability for continuing to permit such activity to occur on their property; demand proof that the illegal broadcasting has ceased on the property; and request identification of the individual(s) engaged in the illegal broadcasting.

The PIRATE Act provides the FCC with additional enforcement authority, including higher penalties against pirate radio broadcasters. This year, the inflation-adjusted maximum penalties for pirate broadcasting have increased to \$119,555 per day, with a maximum of \$2,391,097. In addition to tougher fines on violators, the law requires the FCC to conduct periodic enforcement sweeps and grants the Commission authority to take enforcement action against landlords and property owners that willfully and knowingly permit pirate radio broadcasting on their properties.

The Notices of Illegal Pirate Radio Broadcasting are available at: https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-issues-warnings-13new-york-landowners-illegal-pirate-radio-broadcasts.

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).