

Fair Media Council

223 Wall Street, #200
Huntington, New York, 11743
516-224-1860, ext. 701

September 16, 2018

The Court of Chancery in the State of Delaware
c/o DLA Piper LLP
via email

Dear Delaware Court of Chancery:

In regard to the complaint filed before the Court of Chancery on Sept. 4, 2018, I believe it important for the Court to be provided with a broader perspective on the importance of News12 so that it may appreciate the ramifications of its ruling in the case.

The information I am providing is unsolicited. By way of introduction, the Fair Media Council is the media watchdog for the New York metro area, and headquartered on Long Island. As a 501c3 nonprofit organization, FMC advocates for quality news and works to create a media savvy society, and we do so sans bias, agenda or conflict of interest. Our ultimate goal is an informed citizen, empowered to make the best decisions for his or her life. I have served as executive director of the organization since 2001, and my background includes working in newsrooms as a journalist, and as an executive on the business side of news outlets – which is a bit unusual, but it is an important mix of experience when advocating for the public's right to know.

Since News12 Long Island is the flagship station, let's start there: If you've ever visited Long Island, N.Y., you know the main thoroughfare for our 2.7 million residents is Route 495, the Long Island Expressway. When it comes to news and information, News12 is our 495 of communications. It is unmatched in format, being the only Long Island news source offering local content 24 hours, seven days a week. It is unmatched in scope, providing news coverage no other outlet has the resources or expertise to attempt. And it is unmatched in its breadth, with a 100 percent market penetration rate. Every Long Islander can access this news, if they so choose. In some areas, Cablevision is the sole cable provider.

Since Cablevision and Long Island essentially grew up together, News12 is as much a part of the landscape as our beaches and our schools. Residents place a premium on its familiarity in format and the faces bringing them the news. News12 is where people turn for school closings, election night coverage and weather events – which, as our extreme weather grows in frequency and intensity, News12's role increasingly serves as a lifeline, the importance of which cannot be overstated – and changes to its format and staffing make it highly vulnerable to failure in this particular regard. News12 is what airs in doctors' waiting rooms and in homes while dinner is being made. It drives our local, public conversation on major issues, provides in-depth reports to protect our water, air and land, and enables Long Islanders to have a sense of identity. No other institution may make such a claim. The status was obtained by providing hyperlocal news coverage, reported by people who live in the communities they are covering. In that regard, the entire News12 footprint demands such a setup in order to serve their communities successfully. Employing local reporters is not a subject for cost cutting; they are, in fact, the cost of doing

business, for without them, there is no business. Given their particular skill sets and expertise in the communities they cover, there are no “equivalent” substitutions or replacements for these employees.

I have known Patrick Dolan for close to 20 years. In his role as President of News12 Networks, he is mission driven, and his commitment to local journalism and the people who work for him has been exceptional, and has never waned. Over the years, I have found him to be forthright, and always keeping with his promises. Humanity, and business, would be better served by placing a premium on such characteristics, and the proof lies in what he and his family have built over the years. Among the many Dolan family accomplishments? Setting the standard for local cable news operations across the country.

Earlier this year, NBC published an online article you may find worthy of note. I’m am attaching the link to the story so you may see it whole version, but here is the relevant portion:

A FAMILY THING

Gifts are one thing, but when families are selling businesses that have been built over decades, they want to make sure their priorities are taken care of.

Madison Square Garden CEO James Dolan said that around the time his family was considering selling the New York-area Cablevision, the controlling shareholder of Altice, Patrick Drahi, introduced himself by inviting Dolan and his father, Charles, on Drahi’s 170-foot boat in Sicily.

“Most of the deal hinged on price, but not all of it,” Dolan said.

In particular, James Dolan’s brother Patrick wanted to make sure the local News 12 Networks would be maintained since he had helped build the operation.

Drahi offered some kind words about Cablevision — and agreed to keep News 12 alive.

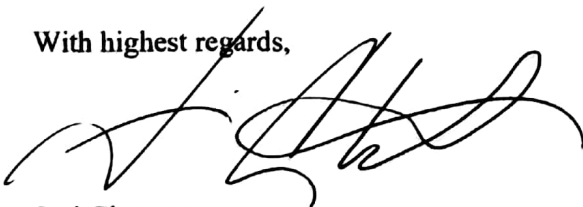
“He told us about his company and how much he admired ours,” Dolan said. “Before they purchased it, there was an arrangement that for five years they would maintain News 12. That gave my brother comfort.”

Cablevision agreed to sell to Altice in 2015 for almost \$10 billion. Patrick Dolan remains a senior network advisor at News 12 Networks.

See the full story: <https://www.nbcnews.com/business/business-news/wine-wimbledon-personal-touch-courting-corporate-mergers-n890366>

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

With highest regards,



Jaci Clement
Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director