



News Release

Office of the United States Attorney Southern District of Texas

Mervyn M. Mosbacher

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

4/28/99

CONTACT:

Norma E. Lacy

Public Affairs Specialist, U.S. Attorney's Office

Phone: 713/567-9388 Fax: 713/718-3389

E-Mail: Norma.Lacy@usdoj.gov

FCC CLOSES UNLICENSED RADIO STATION IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

The FCC, in conjunction with the U.S. Marshals Service and the United States Attorney's Office, seized radio transmission equipment used in the operation of an unlicensed FM radio station in Houston, Texas, on April 27, 1999. The illegal radio station, identifying itself as "Radio Free Montrose" was operating on FM frequency 94.9 MHz. The FCC determined that the unlicensed radio station was operating at power levels as high as 3,400 times in excess of permitted power levels for non-licensed broadcasting. The seizure of the equipment followed FCC warnings to the operator about the penalties for the unauthorized operations, and attempts by FCC agents to have the station voluntarily discontinue transmissions.

The FCC urges operators of all unlicensed stations to voluntarily cease their illegal broadcasting operations. Unlicensed or unauthorized operation of a radio transmitter or station (AM, FM, International Short Wave and TV) is a violation of Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 301. Under the Communications Act the equipment used is subject to seizure and forfeiture by court order.

##