

Dear Community Media Supporters,

Quote Unquote Inc. is a non-profit which with the help of many volunteers created public access in Albuquerque back in 1981 by raising money, doing manual labor and convincing the Albuquerque Cable Company to give us Channel 27. Since that time Quote Unquote has trained more than 9000 people to become videographers, providing local television content on almost any subject imaginable for the inhabitants of the greater Albuquerque area. Quote Unquote and Channel 27 have always opened its doors to everyone in the community to participate and has fostered an environment of tolerance of ideas and beliefs within its walls creating a model example in an era when there is so much partisanship and intolerance.

On Friday, the City of Albuquerque announced its decision to terminate the 30 year contract with QUQ to operate public access TV channel 27 and Encantada TV channel 26. The City of Albuquerque awarded the contract to an outfit called uPublicTV, whose mission is to train young filmmakers and has shown minimal support and has no roots in the Albuquerque community.

We are fighting this decision and filing an appeal. We're afraid that this organization will leave out important voices from underserved communities and will not honor the tradition of free speech. Communities deserve the opportunity to create media that represent them, matter to them and meet their needs on a local level. Meaningful and relevant media are essential in a consolidated media environment where people of color, women, people with disabilities and many others are repeatedly silenced.

Quote Unquote fosters a broader democratic practice in our local community, and in our local media system. For the last thirty years, Quote Unquote has built hundreds of long standing partnerships with local universities, high schools, art organizations, sports entities, social justice groups, city and state agencies, museums, restaurants, filmmakers, local businesses, local & national coalitions, and many more. These valuable and deeply rooted relationships with our partners, underserved communities, marginalized populations, and rural areas would be in serious jeopardy. This new public access TV operator would not honor the tradition of free speech television as we currently know it.

Please write a letter of support on your organization's letterhead, feel free to use this outline:

- Briefly describe your mission and vision of your organization and location
- Identify your relationship to QUQ and/or community media centers (CMC)
- Explain how QUQ and/or CMC's promote a healthy democracy by providing an avenue for free speech to all members of our communities
- If your organization has benefited from QUQ community media services-has highlighted your work or has trained your members to make TV programs please give me an example
- How QUQ truly provides a platform for communities to tell their own stories and through its relationships
- How QUQ is best positioned to bring Public Access TV into the 21st century digital age of distribution with web 2.0 and 3.0, new media, and social media
- Describe how a relationship with QUQ and/or a CMC can help foster deep, long standing roots in social & media justice movements and broad national coalitions

Some important points you can address are:

- Quote Unquote has been doing this work for 30 years and has deep community roots
- Without Quote-Unquote free speech TV in Albuquerque would be threatened as the new model proposed under uPublic TV is focused around a commercial framework
- Providing a contract to the lowest performing candidate who is also the highest bidder is highly problematic
- The RFP process and the end-result beg questions of conflict of interest and hidden agendas
- New Mexico deserves better! Citizens of Albuquerque have entrusted our City to look out for our communities' best interests, not for their personal pocketbooks.

We are asking that you urge the City of Albuquerque Mayor's Office and the City Council to drop the RFP process and to extend Quote Unquote's old contract.

Please email your letter to ejquoteunquote@gmail.com. This is a [link](#) to Quote-Unquote Media Center's website, which has a short video, our press release and a call to action to our supporters.

Thank you for your support and you can contact me with any questions, comments or concerns.

In community,
Erica Jones