



AGENDA
CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
July 30, 2014

Meridian Township Municipal Building
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI

Administrative Conference Room

- A. Call Meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m.
- B. Public Remarks
- C. Introductions
- D. Approval of Agenda
- E. Approval of Minutes – April 2, 2014
- F. Communications/Announcements
- G. Old Business
 - 1. Audits
 - a. Comcast Franchise Fee
 - b. AT&T Franchise Fee and PEG Fee
 - c. Technical Review
 - 2. Cable Communications Needs Assessment RFP
- H. New Business / Discussion Items
 - 1. Request for Monthly Meetings
 - 2. Budget Amendment Fee Schedule
 - 3. 2015 Budget Recommendation
 - 4. Letter to AT&T regarding Monitoring Signals
 - 5. Comcast Transfer of Control and Midwest Cable Cost to Review
 - a. Presentation given by Mike Watza, Attorney, Kitch Law Firm
 - b. Comcast Transfer of Control Memo
- I. Reports
 - 1. Complaints/Compliments: Deborah Guthrie
 - 2. Video Service Provider(s):
 - 3. Communications Director Report: Deborah Guthrie
 - 4. Chair's Report: Walter Benenson
 - 5. Township Information: Ron Styka
 - 6. Programming: Deborah Guthrie
 - 7. Viewership/Promotions: Deborah Guthrie
 - 8. Finance: Deborah Guthrie
- J. Other Business & Announcements
 - 1. MLG Breakfast Presentation: Communications Department Director Deborah Guthrie, Senior Producer Brandie Yates and a HOMTV Intern, Friday, August 1st 8:00 am, Coral Gables Restaurant

K. Public Remarks

L. Adjournment

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Meridian Township by writing or calling the following: Frank Walsh, Township Manager, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198 (517-349-1200, Ext. 308). Ten days notice required.

Cable Communications Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

Administrative Conference Room
Meridian Municipal Building, Okemos, MI
April 2, 2014

Present: Commissioners: Walter Benenson, Patrick Crowley and Brian Seipel
Staff: Deborah Guthrie
Township: Ron Styka
Comcast: John Gardner
AT&T: None
Haslett Schools: None
Okemos Schools: None

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Benenson called the meeting to order at **6:05 pm**.

Approval of Agenda:

Chair Benenson moved TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. Seconded by Commissioner Seipel.

Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Chair Benenson moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2014 AS SUBMITTED. Seconded by Commissioner Crowley.

Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Remarks:

No Public Present

Communications: Please refer to items in packet. No additional items to report.

Old Business:

1. Audits: Communication Director Deborah Guthrie reported to the commission that the AT&T audit was filed and AT&T accepted the non-disclosure agreement so auditors are currently looking at how PEG fees and franchise fees are calculated and the results are supposed to be in by June.
2. Special Committee Interim Chair's Report: The special committee meeting was cancelled last week, so no new information to report.

New Business:

1. Resolution of Support Regarding PEG Fees: Director Guthrie provided a Resolution of Support and memo regarding the support of PEG fees. The California General Assembly recently introduced a Joint Resolution that urges the U.S. Congress to amend the federal Cable Act, 47 U.S.C. Sec. 542 to allow localities to decide how best to use PEG funding. Passing the federal law amendment would ensure that PEG funding can be used for any purpose related to public, educational or government use of the cable system, as is permitted by Michigan state law. Director Guthrie encouraged the commission to approve the resolution.

Commissioner Seipel moved TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT REGARDING PEG FEES. Seconded by Commissioner Crowley.

Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

- Cable Compliments/Complaints: Please refer to items in packet. No additional items to report.
- Video Service Provider(s): Comcast Representative John Gardner announced the 2nd Annual Xfinity Watchathon Week from March 31 – April 6. It was a week long all access pass for Xfinity customers to watch full, current or most recent seasons of favorite television episodes.

Gardner presented an Internet Essentials booklet to the commission that outlined the status of the program. He reported that the program has connected more than 300,000 families - over 1.2 million low-income Americans – to the internet at home and the program will be extended indefinitely.

Gardner announced on April 26th the Annual Comcast Cares Day event in Lansing at the Cristo Rey Community Center.

Director Guthrie suggested Gardner make a short presentation to the Township Board during an upcoming meeting about the Internet Essentials program. She also suggested Comcast provide an informal public service forum for residents to attend.

- Communications Director's Report: Director Guthrie reported that she currently serves on the National Board for NATOA and has decided not to run for another two year term because the position is very time consuming and she will focus her energy on franchise renewals. She also stated that California's NATOA group (SCAN NATOA) has invited her to fly there in June and provide a presentation on channel imaging and branding through social media.
- Chair's Report: Nothing to report.

- Township Information: Township Liaison Ron Styka reported that the Township Board recently voted to approve the new fire station. He also updated the commission on the Okemos downtown development.
- Programming: Director Guthrie reported that she re-hired HOMTV alumni member and Reporter for WILX Channel 10 Josh Sidorowicz as a Freelancer and he will be starting this week hosting programs.
- Viewership/Promotions: Director Guthrie informed the commission that staff is helping to promote and create print materials for the Celebrate Downtown Okemos event in June. In addition, staff is working on the Spring Meridian Monitor newsletter and moved up production by one week to make sure the brush pick up program information was accurate and timely.
- Finance: Please refer to items in packet. No additional items to report.

Other Business & Announcements:

Nothing to Report.

Future Agenda Items:

Nothing to Report.

Public Remarks:

No remarks from the public.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Crowley moved TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Seconded by Commissioner Seipel.

Hearing no objections, Chair Benenson ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 7:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, July 30, 2014 in the Administrative Conference Room.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

COMMUNICATIONS

Deborah Guthrie

From: Deborah Guthrie
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2014 2:02 PM
To: 'Marvin Toler'
Subject: RE: Cable Choices

Wow has not contacted Meridian Township to provide video services. I have discussed this with them in the past but have not had those discussions as of late. I have left a message with their Vice President and System Manager asking if and when they would have plans to provide services in Meridian Township. If I can help you out with anything else, let me know. Thank you for your inquiry.

Deborah Guthrie
Communications Director, Meridian Township Executive Producer, HOMTV and CAMTV
www.linkedin.com/in/deborahguthrie
Guthrie@meridian.mi.us
517-853-4680
www.meridian.mi.us
www.facebook.com/MeridianTownship
www.twitter.com/Meridiantwp
<http://pinterest.com/meridiantwp/>
www.myMeridian.net

www.HOMTV.net
www.facebook.com/HOMTV
www.twitter.com/HOMTV
www.pinterest.com/HOMTV
www.instagram.com/HOMTV

www.facebook.com/CAMtvCapitalAreaMedia
www.twitter.com/CAMtv30and99

-----Original Message-----

From: Marvin Toler [<mailto:marvtoler@me.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2014 1:13 PM
To: Deborah Guthrie
Subject: Cable Choices

I have noticed that WOW cable is available in other parts of the Lansing area but not Meridian. We definitely need more competition for cable TV and internet access in our area. Is Meridian Twsp. in any discussions with WOW?

Marvin Toler
4370 Tacoma Blvd
Okemos, MI 48864



April 15, 2014

Ms. Deborah Guthrie, Cable Coordinator
Meridian Township
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Ms. Guthrie:

As part of Comcast's commitment to keep you informed about important developments that affect our customers in your community, I am writing to notify you of some channel changes. Customers are being notified of these changes via bill message.

Effective on or about April 23, 2014, INSP (channel 391), TBN (channel 392), EWTN (channel 393) and Daystar (channel 396) will be available with the Digital Economy level of service.

As always, feel free to contact me directly at 517-334-5686 with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John P. Gardner".

John P. Gardner
Senior Manager, External Affairs
Comcast, Heartland Region
1401 E. Miller Rd.
Lansing, MI 48911



May 19, 2014

Deborah Guthrie, Cable Coordinator
Meridian Township
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Ms. Guthrie:

As part of Comcast's commitment to keep you informed about important developments that affect our customers in your community, I am writing to notify you of some channel changes. Customers are being notified of these changes via bill messages.

Effective June 30, 2014, WLAJ HD (The CW) (channels 236/1017) will be available on HD Limited Basic service.

Also, effective July 9, 2014, Nick2 (channel 132) will no longer be available on our Family Tier service. Where available, Nickelodeon HD (channels 228/1521) will be added to Family Tier. Playboy Pay-Per-View will move from channel 543 to channel 544.

Additionally, July 16, 2014, access to FearNet On Demand via channel 166 will be discontinued.

As always, feel free to contact me directly at 517-334-5686 with any questions you may have

Sincerely,

John P. Gardner
Senior Manager, External Affairs
Comcast, Heartland Region
1401 E. Miller Rd.
Lansing, MI 48911



July 2, 2014

Deborah Guthrie, Cable Coordinator
Meridian Township
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Ms. Guthrie:

As part of Comcast's commitment to keep you informed about important developments that affect our customers in your community, I am writing to notify you of some channel changes. Customers are being notified of these changes via bill messages.

During July 17th – August 17th customers will now be able to access Encore Espanol (channel 648) for free. Encore Espanol is being added to the Comcast channel lineup as part our XFINITY TV 300 Latino and XFINITY TV 450 Latino services around August 17, 2014.

Also, effective August 19, 2014, Real+ (channel 551) will no longer be available on your Comcast channel lineup. Hustler (channel 547) will be added to your channel lineup as a pay-per-view channel effective August 20, 2014.

As always, feel free to contact me directly at 517-334-5686 with any questions you may have

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John P. Gardner".

John P. Gardner
Senior Manager, External Affairs
Comcast, Heartland Region
1401 E. Miller Rd.
Lansing, MI 48911

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

**OLD
BUSINESS**

MEMORANDUM

To: Cable Communications Commission

From: 
Communications Director Deborah Guthrie

Date: July 24, 2014

Re: Request for Proposal Audits

Request for Proposals (RFP) were recently sent out for three separate audits that include: a Technical Audit, Comcast Franchise Fee Audit and a Cable Communications Needs Assessment.

Staff received two (2) Technical Audit RFPs, with the average cost being \$33,330. Four (4) Comcast Franchise Fee Audit RFPs were received with the average cost being \$12,750. Five (5) Cable Communications Needs Assessment RFPs were received with the average cost being \$50,617.

Staff has reviewed all submitted RFP's and makes the following recommendations to the commission:

Technical Audit – CTC Technology and Energy - \$22,500.00

Comcast Franchise Fee Audit – Ashpaugh & Sculco - \$21,000.00

Cable Communication Needs Assessment – Holly Hansen Consulting - \$19,325.00

If you would prefer to review any of the RFP's, please let us know and I will forward the information to you.

RFP Audit Summary

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

	Option 1	Option 2 FULL PRICE	Additional i-net	Time Frame	Notes
Holly Hanson Consulting	\$16,875.00	\$19,325.00	\$2,400.00	4 months	No phone survey
The Buske Group	\$1,800.00 no phone	\$44,760.00	\$2,400.00	6 months	Phone survey \$12,960.00, additional items can be cut
Riedel Communitcations	(1 focus group) \$32,150.00	\$41,650.00	no I-net survey?	4 months	Phone survey \$13,500.00, Option 2 includes 6 focus groups
TeleDimensions	\$52,642.00	\$69,450.00	rolled into equipment assessment	8 months	Phone survey \$18,408.00 - \$35,216.00, Not sure if they are doing focus groups
CTC Technology and Energy		\$77,900.00	no I-net	?	Includes Tech Audit and Needs Assessment
	Average	\$50,617.00			

TECHNICAL AUDIT

COST

CTC Technology and Energy		\$22,500.00		2 months	+ Expenses, options available for needs assessments, surveys etc.
CBG Communications		\$44,160.00		4-6 months	+ Expenses, options available for needs assessments, surveys etc.
	Average	\$33,330.00			

FRANCHISE FEE AUDIT

COST

Ashpaugh & Sculco		\$21,000.00
Cohen Law Group		\$7,500.00
Plant Moran		\$12,500.00 - \$14,000.00
Scott Lewis & Associates		\$8,500.00
	Average	\$12,333.33

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

**NEW
BUSINESS**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cable Communications Commission

FROM: 
Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director

DATE: 7/22/2014

RE: Request for Monthly Meetings

On July 10, 2014, Chair Walter Benenson requested the Commission discuss and take action on reinstating monthly Cable Communications Commission meetings. Please see attached email. If the Commission so chooses to reinstate monthly meetings, this action supports the Declaration of Purpose for the commission according to Ordinance No. 2003-12 Sec. 70-27 which states:

“The purpose of this article is to provide fair regulation of cable service in the township in the interest of the public; to promote and encourage adequate, economical and efficient cable service to the residents of the township; to promote and to encourage harmony between cable television companies and their subscribers; and to provide for the furnishing of cable television system service to the residents of the township without unjust discrimination, undue preferences or advantages.”

This would afford the commission a greater opportunity to meet on a regular basis for such matters as described in Chair Benenson’s email in accordance with Sec. 70-28 Cable Communications Commission section C:

- (1) Discuss this article and franchises with prospective franchise applications.
- (2) Advise the township board on applications for franchises.
- (3) Advise the township board on matters that might constitute grounds for revocation of a franchise under this article.
- (4) Recommend to the township board, after hearing, resolutions of disputes between franchisees, between franchisee(s) and subscribers, between franchisee(s) and access users, and between access users.
- (5) Advise the township board on the regulation of rates under this article and make recommendations on requested changes in rates, services or classifications.

(6) Recommend to the township board general policy relating to access channels with a view to maximizing the diversity of programs and services to subscribers.

(7) Encourage the use of access channels by institutions, groups and individuals within the township. The township board shall budget a minimum of 80 percent of franchise fees for use by the commission to operate a government access channel and administer this ordinance and cable television franchises. Such budgeted funds shall be kept by or under the control of the township treasurer. The township treasurer shall draw checks on said account only when a majority of the members of the township board has authorized such expenditure.

(8) Encourage and supervise interconnection of systems.

(9) Review and report to the township board concerning records and reports that the franchisee is required to submit under this article.

(10) The commission shall annually prepare a proposed budget and submit that proposed budget to the township board for its consideration and adoption. Prior to adopting a budget for the commission, the township board shall conduct a public hearing. The commission shall also prepare and submit to the township board an annual report including an accounting of budgeted fees received and distributed by the commission and a report of the type and amount of use of access channels.

(11) Conduct evaluations of the system at least every three years and make recommendations to the township board regarding amendments to this article or to the franchise agreement.

If the Cable Communications Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian were to approve regular monthly Cable Commission meetings, then it would be my recommendation to eliminate the Special Committee meetings for the remainder of 2014 and revisit the need to create a special committee once the Communications Needs Assessment begins.

Now, therefore, be it resolved recommend the following adoption as follows:

Dissolve the Special Committee and cancel the following Special Committee meeting dates:

August 20
September 17
October 15
November 19
December 17

Now, therefore, be it resolved recommend the following adoption of monthly Cable Communication Commission meetings at 6:00 pm for the remainder of the first Wednesdays of each month in 2014 located in the Administrative Conference Room at the Municipal Building 5151 Marsh Rd. Okemos, MI. 48864:

August 6
September 3
*October 8
November 5
December 3 (already scheduled)

*First Wednesday in October, staff will be in attendance at the NATOA conference representing Meridian Charter Township

Cable Commission: In the past few years we have been able to get all of our business done in four meetings a year that seldom went over 70 minutes. Things have changed dramatically and I am proposing that we meet more often.

The reasons I am proposing this is because there are many more pressing things that need to be done now:

1. New sunshine meeting laws do not allow voting via email. So for example the budget will have to be taken by Guthrie to the trustees without our approval because we would have to have met to vote approval.
2. The transfer of control and the whole "Midwest Cable" issue needs to be discussed.
3. The refranchise issue needs also to be discussed in a meeting.
4. The various audits (Comcast and technical) and needs assessments are in process.
5. The entire future of media needs to be discussed and ideas transmitted to the Meridian board of trustees. Example: will cable disappear, will all urban areas be wired? Etc.

I am proposing that we meet once a month for the moment until we reduce the backlog of issues. We have an outstanding committee the members of which can really contribute to the process rather than being an just approval mechanism.

Let me know what you think, please.

*Emailed to Commission
on July 10, 2014
by Chair Walter
Benenson.*

MEMORANDUM

To: Cable Communications Commission

From:  Communications Director Deborah Guthrie

Date: July 23, 2014

Re: Budget Amendment – Fee Schedule

The HOMTV Cable Operating Policies includes a Fee Schedule for Video Copies and Audio Copies. The last time the fee schedule was amended was in 2009. Since that time there has been an overall decrease in demand and an increase in associated costs for copy requests.

With the increase in online technology and online availability both with live streaming and on demand viewing, there has been a decrease in the amount of copy requests. In addition, the Communications Department has not been in the practice of creating audio copies of programs and meetings and has not received any such requests. Due to these changes, it is being recommended that the commission change the fee structure and pricing.

Attached and below, you will find the existing fee schedule with the pricing as follows:

Video Copies

1. \$10.00 flat rate per order
2. \$5.00 per hour of running time on order, or any increment thereof.
3. \$3.00 for videotape supplied by HOMTV for the copy.

Audio Copies

1. \$5.00 flat rater per order
2. \$5.00 per hour of running time on order, or an increment thereof.
3. \$2.00 for audiotape supplied by HOMTV for the copy.

Recommend the HOMTV Operating Policies Fee Schedule be changed to increase the video fee pricing structure and eliminate the audio copy fee structure to read as follows:

Video Copies

1. \$15.00 flat rate per order
2. \$10.00 per hour of running time on order, or any increment thereof.
3. \$6.00 for videotape supplied by HOMTV for the copy.

The following motion is recommended for Commission consideration:

MOVE TO RECOMMEND TO THE TOWNSHIP BOARD TO MODIFY THE FEE SCHEDULE IN THE HOMTV OPERATING POLICIES.

FEE SCHEDULE

Video Copies

1. \$10.00 flat rate per order
2. \$5.00 per hour of running time on order, or any increment thereof.
3. \$3.00 for videotape supplied by HOMTV for the copy.

Audio Copies

1. \$5.00 flat rate per order
2. \$5.00 per hour of running time on order, or any increment thereof.
3. \$2.00 for audiotape supplied by HOMTV for the copy.

MEMORANDUM

To: Cable Communications Commission

From: 
Communications Director Deborah Guthrie

Date: July 24, 2014

Re: 2015 Budget Recommendation

The 2014 Cable TV revenue, expenditure, staffing summary and projections are attached from the 2014 budget. While we recommend an increase in staffing from 4 full time employees to 5, refranchising costs in 2015 will not allow for an increase in personnel costs. Significant changes to some of the line items are due to an increase in costs for the way in which the communications industry is changing and refranchising.

Legal Fees Line item: There is a 62% increase in legal fees due to re-franchising costs including audits, consultation, and negotiations.

Contractual Services: There is a 12.5% increase in costs due to video streaming services, web hosting services, information subscription for CAMTV, software and hardware warranties for video network and video switcher, and EZNews software agreement.

Video Production Equipment: There will be a 48.75% decrease in equipment replacements due to the importance of refranchising. However, the HOMTV playback system equipment will need replacement and some of the field equipment will need upgrades.

Attached you will find the Cable TV funds revenue summary and statement of fund balance from 2014.

CABLE TV FUNDS

Narrative: The highest priority of the Communications Department is to provide residents with an increased access to transparency in governance with relevant information and in a timely fashion. A diverse means of methods through the utilization of current and best communication practices is used to provide information to residents and neighboring municipalities. An advisory board, the Cable Communications Commission, approves operating policies and makes recommendations concerning fiscal matters to the Township Board. Operating funds are primarily generated from franchise fees and peg fees derived from cable service providers according to Public Act 480.

REVENUE SUMMARY				
<u>Account Classification</u>	<u>2012 Actual</u>	<u>2013 Original Budget</u>	<u>2013 Projected Total</u>	<u>2014 Budget</u>
Franchise Fees-Cable TV	\$590,243	\$598,000	\$600,000	\$610,000
PEG Fees	0	65,000	54,000	54,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	413	10,000	1,575	200
Donations/Agency Fees	0	0	200	0
Interest	0	0	0	0
	<u>\$590,656</u>	<u>\$673,000</u>	<u>\$655,775</u>	<u>\$664,200</u>

Franchise Fees - Cable TV: The revenues from Cable Franchise Fees are received from the 5% Franchise Fee that is charged on the annual gross revenues of Comcast Cable Services and AT&T Uverse Services for use of the public rights of way.

PEG Fees: Cable PEG Fee revenues are received from the 3.36% that ATT&T Uverse is charged on their gross revenues as support for the cost of public, education, and government access facilities and services.

Donations/Agency Fees: Includes the programming application fees, municipal shared services fees and sponsor revenues for CAMTV.

STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCE		
	<u>Nonspendable</u>	<u>Restricted</u>
Fund Balance as of December 31, 2012 (per audit)	\$270	\$233,967
Anticipated Operating Surplus for 2013	<u>(270)</u>	<u>34,601</u>
Estimated Available Fund Balance as of December 31, 2013	0	268,568
Anticipated Operating Surplus for 2014	<u>0</u>	<u>7,721</u>
Estimated Available Fund Balance as of December 31, 2014	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$276,289</u>

CABLE TV FUNDS

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY				
<u>Account Classification</u>	2012 Actual	2013 Original Budget	2013 Projected Total	2014 Budget
Personnel Costs	\$374,093	\$389,240	\$356,544	\$371,085
Operating Costs	155,181	145,190	148,243	168,306
Outside Services	21,090	31,000	37,250	76,388
Debt Service	11,196	53,500	9,430	0
Capital Items	16,410	40,600	68,977	40,700
	<u>\$577,970</u>	<u>\$659,530</u>	<u>\$620,444</u>	<u>\$656,479</u>

Personnel Costs: Includes 4 full-time employees and 2 part-time employees at 29 hours each. Professional TV talent, paid interns, and freelancers are also utilized throughout the year. In addition approximately 30 unpaid student interns are hired and trained each year for producing the Board meetings and special events.

Debt Service: 5-year debt service payback plan was paid in full to the general fund in 2013 from the Cable TV fund balance. The total principal payment was \$236,696 and interest payment was \$9,430. With this payback to the general fund, the Cable TV projected fund balance for 2013 year end is \$272,084.

Capital Items: Production equipment.

PERSONNEL SUMMARY			
<u>Position/Title</u>	2012	2013	2014
Communications Director	1.0	1.0	1.0
Senior Production Manager	1.0	2.0	2.0
TV Production Manager	1.0	0.0	0.0
Production Assistant	1.0	1.0	1.0
Department Secretary	0.7	1.0	1.0
	<u>3.7</u>	<u>5.0</u>	<u>5.0</u>
Interns and Freelancers	30	30	30

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff
Brett Dreyfus
Julie Brixie
Frank L. Walsh

Supervisor
Clerk
Treasurer
Manager



Milton L. Scales
Ronald J. Styka
John Veenstra
Angela Wilson

Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee

July 24, 2014

Valerie Montalvo
Community PEG Liaison
AT&T
1010 N. St. Mary's
Room 7B03A
San Antonio, TX 78215

Dear Valerie,

The Township recently experienced an extended outage on one of our PEG channels, CAMTV 30. Because AT&T has denied our request to connect Township offices to its U-verse system so that staff can monitor the signal going to subscribers, we were not aware of the outage until we received a complaint. Certainly, AT&T is in a position to know whether the PEG signal is being delivered to subscribers, and in this case, was apparently aware of the problem, but failed to notify the Township that staff needed to reboot the equipment.

In January 2012, the Township was told by AT&T that the PEG channel was monitored by a team at the AT&T facility and that the team will contact the Township. Then two years later on July 22, 2014, we were notified that we can report technical issues such as power outages, to an 800 number and "verifying programming both video and audio is available to you... with AT&T U-verse Operations IPTV TAC2". We are unclear as to what this means and what procedure AT&T is using to notify the Township when the PEG channel is down.

We need to address this issue. We think the simplest way is to provide a monitoring connection to our office, but otherwise we would ask that AT&T commit to monitoring the transmission of the PEG signal and notifying us when there is an outage. This is something that has been done in the past.

5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864-1198 (517) 853-4000

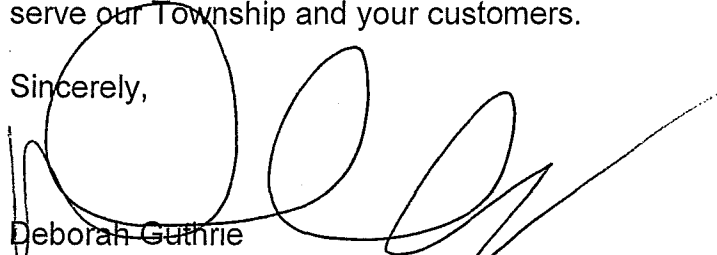
www.meridian.mi.us



Please note Section 10(a)(4) of the Michigan Act says that AT&T may not "discriminate among or between broadcast stations and programming providers with respect to transmission of their signals..." AT&T should be monitoring the transmission of broadcast signals AND PEG signals, or taking other steps to ensure that any transmission problems are quickly identified and corrected.

Please call me at your earliest convenience, so we can address this issue and better serve our Township and your customers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deborah Guthrie', written over the typed name.

Deborah Guthrie
Communications Director, Meridian Township
Executive Producer, HOMTV and CAMTV

MEMORANDUM

To: Cable Communications Commission

From: 
Communications Director Deborah Guthrie

Date: July 23, 2014

Re: Comcast Transfer of Control and Midwest Cable Cost to Review

Meridian Township has received an application from Comcast to transfer control of the current franchisee to a new entity, Midwest Cable, which will be buying a variety of services from Charter Communications. Under the proposed deal, Midwest may be a relatively small company, with limited staff, and most services – telephone answering, installations in the field, billing, ordering, service choices, etc. will be controlled by Charter. We have 120 days to act on the application – we can either approve it, deny it, or approve subject to conditions (although Comcast also reserves the right to argue that under state law, we have no authority to review the transactions at all). If we do nothing, the transfer is deemed approved without any conditions.

There is reason to think that this transaction may create some serious risks for the Township and for customers. We do not know if Midwest Cable will have enough cash to run the system well. We don't know if there will be enough staff located in or near the Township so that customers will receive adequate service. And we are in the midst of a franchise renewal and we don't know whether Midwest Cable can meet our needs for the future. We are also a little concerned that the Charter-Midwest Cable transaction will allow the companies to hide money that might otherwise be subject to the franchise fee. However, we can't just deny or condition a transfer without a reasonable basis. A coalition of communities has hired the firms of Ashpaugh & Sculco and Front Range Consulting to do a due diligence analysis of the financial capabilities of Midwest Cable, and its arrangements with Charter. The cost to us would be about \$5800 given the number of communities involved. Our outside counsel believes that with the help of the analysis, we will be able to make a reasonable decision as to what actions to take with respect to the transaction.

Recommend the Commission approve \$5,800 for financial analysis of Midwest Cable for purposes of reviewing the transaction of control request.

In addition to the review of the transaction, the FCC and the Department of Justice will be examining the transaction, and can impose conditions on the transaction. The conditions the FCC imposes would not be franchise-specific, and are not likely to address issues that the FCC believes localities are in a position to address adequately (like customer service issues). However, the FCC could address some of the national consequences of allowing the transaction to move forward, since the deal will result in enormous concentration of cable and Internet services into the hands of two companies – Comcast and Charter. The FCC might be able to address issues we may not be in a position to address without significant expense. These include, for example, Comcast's refusal to provide adequate HD capacity for PEG. Comments on the proposed merger must be filed at the FCC on August 25. Participating in a coalition to file comments with the FCC could cost up to \$5,000 assuming a coalition is created to share the costs or up to \$75,000 if Meridian were to file alone.

Recommend the Commission discuss filing FCC comments (See attached FCC Public Notice).

Kristi Schaeding

From: Deborah Guthrie
Sent: Monday, April 28, 2014 3:12 PM
To: Kristi Schaeding
Subject: FW: Comcast and Charter Announcement
Attachments: EXTERNAL USE--Divestiture_Release_Final.pdf; EXTERNAL USE--DLC Blog Post 4 27 14 Final.pdf; EXTERNAL USE--Fact Sheet 4 27 14 FINAL.PDF

From: Gardner, John [mailto:John_Gardner@cable.comcast.com]
Sent: Monday, April 28, 2014 2:39 PM
To: Deborah Guthrie
Subject: Comcast and Charter Announcement

Deborah,

When we announced Comcast Corporation and Time Warner's Cable agreement to merge, we committed to keeping you updated so I wanted to provide you with a copy of the attached press release that went out this morning and related materials. It announces that Comcast Corporation and Charter Communications have reached an Agreement on a series of tax-efficient transactions, whereby the combined Comcast-Time Warner Cable entity, following completion of Comcast's previously announced merger with Time Warner Cable, will divest systems resulting in a net reduction of approximately 3.9 million video customers. The divestiture follows through on Comcast's willingness to reduce its post-merger managed subscriber total to less than 30 percent of total national MVPD subscribers, while maintaining the compelling strategic and financial rationale of its proposed merger with Time Warner Cable.

Over the next few days, I will reach out to you to provide an update and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

John Gardner
Sr. Manager, Government Affairs
Comcast - Heartland Region

1401 E. Miller Road
Lansing, MI 48911
(517) 334-5686 phone
(517) 334-1880 fax

INTERNET ESSENTIALS from Comcast

A program designed to expand broadband adoption among low-income American households with at least one child eligible to receive free or reduced price school lunches. Once in the program, participants receive fast, affordable Internet service for \$9.95/mo + tax, the option to purchase a computer for just \$150 and access to free digital literacy training. To learn more or to apply, please call 1-855-8-INTERNET (1-855-846-8376) or visit InternetEssentials.com. To become a partner, please visit InternetEssentials.com/partner.

Confidentiality Notice

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Comcast and Charter Reach Agreement on Divestitures

Comcast to Divest 3.9 Million Customers of Merged Comcast - Time Warner Cable

Charter to Enhance Scale and Improve Geographic Footprint

Divestiture will be Executed through Three Separate Transactions, Including the Creation of a New, Independent, Publicly-Traded Cable Provider

Philadelphia and Stamford – April 28, 2014 – Comcast Corporation (Nasdaq: CMCSA, CMCSK) and Charter Communications (Nasdaq: CHTR) today announced that the companies have reached an agreement (the “Agreement”) on a series of tax-efficient transactions, whereby the combined Comcast-Time Warner Cable entity, following completion of Comcast’s previously announced merger with Time Warner Cable, will divest systems resulting in a net reduction of approximately 3.9 million video customers. The divestiture follows through on Comcast’s willingness to reduce its post-merger managed subscriber total to less than 30 percent of total national MVPD subscribers, while maintaining the compelling strategic and financial rationale of its proposed merger with Time Warner Cable.

Pursuant to the Agreement, and following the close of the Comcast-Time Warner Cable merger, Charter will acquire approximately 1.4 million existing Time Warner Cable subscribers, increasing Charter’s current residential and commercial video customer base from 4.4 million to approximately 5.7 million, and making Charter the second largest cable operator in the United States.¹ Charter and Comcast will also each transfer approximately 1.6 million customers respectively. In addition, Charter, through a tax free reorganization, will form a new holding company (New Charter) that will own 100% of Charter, and acquire an approximate 33 percent stake in a new publicly-traded cable provider to be spun-off by Comcast serving approximately 2.5 million customers (“SpinCo”). Charter will provide management services to SpinCo. In aggregate, today’s announced transactions will significantly enhance Charter’s scale and improve both companies geographic footprint, driving operational efficiencies for Comcast, Charter and SpinCo.

The Agreement has been approved by the Boards of Directors of both companies and Time Warner Cable’s Board has consented to the Agreement as required under the Comcast-Time Warner Cable merger agreement.

¹Charter customer count is based on its reporting methodologies; net additions and SpinCo on respective TWC and Comcast reporting methodologies, where there may be small definitional differences. Totals may not recalculate due to rounding.

The Agreement will be executed via three separate transactions, which are subject to the completion of the proposed Comcast-Time Warner Cable merger:

1. Comcast will divest Time Warner Cable systems serving approximately 1.4 million existing Time Warner Cable customers directly to Charter for cash. Charter expects to fund the purchase with proceeds from debt, and to have approximately a 5 times debt to EBITDA leverage ratio at closing.
2. Comcast and Charter will transfer assets serving approximately 1.6 million existing Time Warner Cable customers and 1.6 million Charter customers in a tax-efficient like kind exchange, improving the geographic presence of both companies, leading to greater operational efficiencies, improved technology deployment and enhanced customer service.
3. Comcast will form and spin off to its shareholders a new, independent, publicly-traded company that will operate systems serving approximately 2.5 million existing Comcast customers. Comcast shareholders, including the former Time Warner Cable shareholders, are expected to own approximately 67 percent of SpinCo, while New Charter is expected to directly own approximately 33 percent of SpinCo. SpinCo expects to incur leverage of approximately 5 times estimated pro-forma EBITDA, and New Charter will then acquire its interest in SpinCo by issuing New Charter stock to Comcast shareholders (including former Time Warner Cable shareholders). SpinCo's nine-member Board of Directors will include six independent directors and three directors designated by Charter. Comcast will hold no ownership interest in SpinCo (or Charter) and will have no role in managing SpinCo.

The transfer of systems, asset purchase and SpinCo acquisition will be valued at a 7.125 times 2014 EBITDA multiple (as defined by the parties), and Charter will make additional payments to Comcast over time as tax benefits from the asset sale are realized.

As a result of these transactions, following the completion of the merger between Comcast and Time Warner Cable, Comcast's managed residential subscribers will be below 30 percent of the total MVPD subscribers in the United States, and approximately the same market share as Comcast's subscriber base after its completion of both the 2002 AT&T Broadband transaction and the 2006 Adelphia transaction – and Charter's subscriber base will increase by 1.4 million to a total of 5.7 million.

Comcast has reaffirmed that, after taking into account the transactions with Charter, it continues to expect its merger with Time Warner Cable to generate approximately \$1.5 billion in operating efficiencies. Comcast shareholders will receive meaningful value with shares in New Charter, as well as new shares in SpinCo. In addition, Comcast intends to use proceeds from these transactions to reduce its debt in a leverage-neutral manner and expand its share buyback program.

"Today's Agreement follows through on our willingness to divest subscribers, while also marking an important step in our merger with Time Warner Cable," said Brian Roberts, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Comcast Corporation. "These transactions enable us to deliver meaningful value to our shareholders. The realignment of key cable markets achieved in these transactions will enable Comcast to fill in our footprint and deliver operational efficiencies and technology improvements. We look forward to working with the management teams at Time Warner Cable, Charter and the new entity to close these transactions and ensure a smooth transition for the customers and employees of all companies."

"Charter's new customers will benefit from our philosophy of providing highly valued products, featuring enhanced on-demand, interactive video and increased broadband speeds, all in a simplified package designed to provide better value and service," said Tom Rutledge, President and Chief Executive Officer of Charter Communications. "The transactions announced today will provide Charter with greater scale, growth opportunities and improved geographical rationalization of our cable systems, which in turn will drive value for shareholders and more effective customer service. And through our meaningful ownership in and board representation at SpinCo, we can help it achieve similar market share growth in the markets it serves."

The transactions are subject to a number of conditions, including the closing of the Comcast-Time Warner Cable merger, receipt of Hart-Scott-Rodino, FCC and other required regulatory approvals, Charter shareholder approval, and various other matters.

J.P. Morgan and Paul J. Taubman acted as financial advisors to Comcast and Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP and Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP are its legal advisors.

Goldman Sachs and LionTree Advisors are serving as lead financial advisors to Charter in connection with this transaction. Guggenheim Securities is also a financial advisor to Charter. BofA Merrill Lynch, Credit Suisse, and Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. are also financial advisors to Charter, and together with Goldman Sachs, are leading the financing for the transaction. The law firms Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz and Kirkland & Ellis LLP are also representing Charter.

Teleconference and Webcast for Financial Community

Charter and Comcast will host a conference call on Monday, April 28, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time (ET) related to the contents of this release.

The conference call will be webcast live via Charter's website at charter.com. The webcast can be accessed by selecting "Investor & News Center" from the lower menu on the home page. The call will be archived in the "Investor & News Center" in the "Financial Information" section on the left beginning two hours after completion of the call. Participants should go to the webcast link no later than 10 minutes prior to the start time to register.

The conference call and related materials will also be broadcast live and posted on Comcast's Investor Relations website at www.cmcsa.com or www.cmcsk.com.

Those participating via telephone should dial 866-919-0894 no later than 10 minutes prior to the call. International participants should dial 706-679-9379. The conference ID code for the call is 35997372. A replay of the call will be available at 855-859-2056 or 404-537-3406 beginning two hours after the completion of the call through the end of business on May 28, 2014. The conference ID code for the replay is 35997372.

About Comcast Corporation

Comcast Corporation (Nasdaq: CMCSA, CMCSK) is a global media and technology company with two primary businesses, Comcast Cable and NBCUniversal. Comcast Cable is the nation's largest video, high-speed Internet and phone provider to residential customers under the XFINITY brand and also provides these services to businesses. NBCUniversal operates 30 news, entertainment and sports cable networks, the NBC and Telemundo broadcast networks, television production operations, television station

groups, Universal Pictures and Universal Parks and Resorts. Visit www.comcastcorporation.com for more information.

About Charter Communications

Charter (NASDAQ: CHTR) is a leading broadband communications company and the fourth-largest cable operator in the United States. Charter provides a full range of advanced broadband services, including advanced Charter TV® video entertainment programming, Charter Internet® access, and Charter Phone®. Charter Business® similarly provides scalable, tailored, and cost-effective broadband communications solutions to business organizations, such as business-to-business Internet access, data networking, business telephone, video and music entertainment services, and wireless backhaul. Charter's advertising sales and production services are sold under the Charter Media® brand. More information about Charter can be found at charter.com.

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Important Information For Investors And Shareholders

This communication does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities or a solicitation of any vote or approval. In connection with the proposed transaction between Comcast Corporation ("Comcast") and Charter Communications, Inc. ("Charter"), Charter will file with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") a registration statement on Form S-4 that will include a proxy statement of Charter that also constitutes a prospectus of Charter, and a definitive proxy statement/prospectus will be mailed to shareholders of Charter. INVESTORS AND SECURITY HOLDERS OF COMCAST AND CHARTER ARE URGED TO READ THE PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS THAT WILL BE FILED WITH THE SEC CAREFULLY AND IN THEIR ENTIRETY BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION. Investors and security holders will be able to obtain free copies of the registration statement and the proxy statement/prospectus (when available) and other documents filed with the SEC by Comcast or Charter through the website maintained by the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>. Copies of the

documents filed with the SEC by Comcast are available free of charge on Comcast's website at <http://cmcsa.com> or by contacting Comcast's Investor Relations Department at 866-281-2100. Copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Charter will be available free of charge on Charter's website at charter.com, in the "Investor and News Center" near the bottom of the page, or by contacting Charter's Investor Relations Department at 203-905-7955.

In addition, in connection with the proposed transaction between Comcast and Time Warner Cable Inc. ("Time Warner Cable"), on March 20, 2014, Comcast filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-4 containing a preliminary joint proxy statement of Comcast and Time Warner Cable that also constitutes a preliminary prospectus of Comcast. The registration statement has not yet become effective. After the registration statement is declared effective by the SEC, a definitive joint proxy statement/prospectus will be mailed to shareholders of Comcast and Time Warner Cable. INVESTORS AND SECURITY HOLDERS OF COMCAST AND TIME WARNER CABLE ARE URGED TO READ THE JOINT PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS FILED OR THAT WILL BE FILED WITH THE SEC CAREFULLY AND IN THEIR ENTIRETY BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN OR WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION. Investors and security holders may obtain free copies of the registration statement and the joint proxy statement/prospectus and other documents filed with the SEC by Comcast or Time Warner Cable through the website maintained by the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>. Copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Comcast are available free of charge on Comcast's website at <http://cmcsa.com> or by contacting Comcast's Investor Relations Department at 866-281-2100. Copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Time Warner Cable will be available free of charge on Time Warner Cable's website at <http://ir.timewarnercable.com> or by contacting Time Warner Cable's Investor Relations Department at 877-446-3689.

Shareholders of Comcast and Time Warner Cable are not being asked to vote on the proposed transaction between Comcast and Charter, and the proposed transaction between Comcast and Time Warner Cable is not contingent upon the proposed transaction between Comcast and Charter.

Comcast, Time Warner Cable, Charter and their respective directors and certain of their respective executive officers may be considered participants in the solicitation of proxies in connection with the proposed transaction between Comcast and Time Warner Cable, and Comcast, Charter and their respective directors and certain of their respective executive officers may be considered participants in the solicitation of proxies in connection with the proposed transaction between Comcast and Charter. Information about the directors and executive officers of Time Warner Cable is set forth in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, which was filed with the SEC on February 18, 2014, and its preliminary proxy statement for its 2014 annual meeting of stockholders, which was filed with the SEC on April 8, 2014. Information about the directors and executive officers of Comcast is set forth in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, which was filed with the SEC on February 12, 2014, and its proxy statement for its 2014 annual meeting of stockholders, which was filed with the SEC on April 11, 2014. Information about the directors and executive officers of Charter is set forth in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, which was filed with the SEC on February 21, 2014, and its proxy statement for its 2014 annual meeting of stockholders, which was filed with the SEC on March 27, 2014. These documents can be obtained free of charge from the sources indicated above. Additional information regarding the participants in the proxy solicitations and a description of their direct and indirect interests, by security holdings or otherwise, are contained in the preliminary joint proxy statement/prospectus of Comcast and Time Warner Cable filed with the SEC and will be contained in the definitive joint proxy statement/prospectus of Comcast and Time Warner Cable and other relevant materials to be filed with the SEC when they become available, and will also be contained in the preliminary proxy statement/prospectus of Charter when it becomes available.

Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements in this communication regarding the proposed acquisition of Time Warner Cable by Comcast and the proposed transaction between Comcast and Charter, including any statements regarding the expected timetable for completing the transactions, benefits and synergies of the transactions, future opportunities for the respective companies and products, and any other statements regarding Comcast's, Time Warner Cable's and Charter's future expectations, beliefs, plans, objectives, financial conditions, assumptions or future events or performance that are not historical facts are "forward-looking" statements made within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. These statements are often, but not always, made through the use of words or phrases such as "may", "believe," "anticipate," "could", "should," "intend," "plan," "will," "expect(s)," "estimate(s)," "project(s)," "forecast(s)", "positioned," "strategy," "outlook" and similar expressions. All such forward-looking statements involve estimates and assumptions that are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the results expressed in the statements. Among the key factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements are the following: the timing to consummate the proposed transactions; the risk that a condition to closing either of the proposed transactions may not be satisfied; the risk that a regulatory approval that may be required for either of the proposed transactions is not obtained or is obtained subject to conditions that are not anticipated; the parties' ability to achieve the synergies and value creation contemplated by the proposed transactions; the parties' ability to promptly, efficiently and effectively integrate acquired operations into their own operations; and the diversion of management time on transaction-related issues. Additional information concerning these and other factors can be found in Comcast's, Time Warner Cable's and Charter's respective filings with the SEC, including Comcast's, Time Warner Cable's and Charter's most recent Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K. Comcast, Time Warner Cable and Charter assume no obligation to update any forward-looking statements. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements that speak only as of the date hereof.



Comcast Reaches Agreement with Charter to Divest 3.9 Million Customers Marking an Important Milestone toward Comcast's Merger with Time Warner Cable

By David L. Cohen, Executive Vice President, Comcast Corporation

In February, we announced our intention to acquire Time Warner Cable as we continue on our path to create a world-class technology and media company. At that time, we also said that we were prepared to divest about three million customers.

Today, in a joint announcement with Charter Communications, we announced that we will divest approximately 3.9 million residential video customers following the close of the Comcast-Time Warner Cable merger, which will reduce our post-transaction managed residential customer total to less than 30 percent of the total number of MVPD customers in the United States, while maintaining the compelling strategic and financial rationale of the merger with Time Warner Cable.

These transactions will enhance Comcast's ability to serve consumers and businesses by improving our geographic presence, leading to greater operational efficiencies, improved technology deployment, and enhanced customer service. These divestitures will also strengthen Charter and create a new, vibrant cable provider. They also will enable us to deliver meaningful value to our shareholders.

These transactions also mark an important step in Comcast's merger with Time Warner Cable. We believe today's announcement will facilitate the regulatory review process, as there is now a firm commitment regarding divestitures, relatively early in the process, and the divestiture transactions can be reviewed at the same time as our merger with Time Warner Cable.

The divestiture will be executed through three separate transactions, which will follow and are subject to the completion of the Comcast-Time Warner Cable merger:

1. Comcast will divest Time Warner Cable systems serving approximately 1.4 million existing Time Warner Cable customers directly to Charter for cash.
2. Comcast and Charter will transfer assets serving approximately 1.6 million existing Time Warner Cable and Charter customers each, improving the geographic presence of both companies, which will lead to greater operational efficiencies, improved technology deployment, and enhanced customer service.
3. Comcast will form and then spin off to its shareholders a new, independent, publicly-traded company ("SpinCo") that will operate systems serving approximately 2.5 million existing Comcast customers. SpinCo will be a vibrant new MVPD provider in the Midwest and South that will continue to provide top-quality video, broadband, and voice services to its customers and have substantial growth potential for the future. It will have a nine-member Board of Directors that will include six independent directors and three directors appointed by Charter. Charter will provide operational support for the SpinCo systems under a services agreement, although SpinCo will have its own independent management team.



We understand that whenever big mergers are presented they raise questions. We of course will continue to work with regulators and legislators to address their questions and we expect a thorough review of all of these transactions. We continue to believe the Comcast-Time Warner Cable transaction is, and will be determined to be, pro-consumer, pro-competitive, and strongly in the public interest.

Important Information For Investors And Shareholders

This communication does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities or a solicitation of any vote or approval. In connection with the proposed transaction between Comcast Corporation ("Comcast") and Charter Communications, Inc. ("Charter"), Charter will file with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") a registration statement on Form S-4 that will include a proxy statement of Charter that also constitutes a prospectus of Charter, and a definitive proxy statement/prospectus will be mailed to shareholders of Charter. **INVESTORS AND SECURITY HOLDERS OF COMCAST AND CHARTER ARE URGED TO READ THE PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS THAT WILL BE FILED WITH THE SEC CAREFULLY AND IN THEIR ENTIRETY BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION.** Investors and security holders will be able to obtain free copies of the registration statement and the proxy statement/prospectus (when available) and other documents filed with the SEC by Comcast or Charter through the website maintained by the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>. Copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Comcast are available free of charge on Comcast's website at <http://cmcsa.com> or by contacting Comcast's Investor Relations Department at 866-281-2100. Copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Charter will be available free of charge on Charter's website at charter.com, in the "Investor and News Center" near the bottom of the page, or by contacting Charter's Investor Relations Department at 203-905-7955.

In addition, in connection with the proposed transaction between Comcast and Time Warner Cable Inc. ("Time Warner Cable"), on March 20, 2014, Comcast filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-4 containing a preliminary joint proxy statement of Comcast and Time Warner Cable that also constitutes a preliminary prospectus of Comcast. The registration statement has not yet become effective. After the registration statement is declared effective by the SEC, a definitive joint proxy statement/prospectus will be mailed to shareholders of Comcast and Time Warner Cable. **INVESTORS AND SECURITY HOLDERS OF COMCAST AND TIME WARNER CABLE ARE URGED TO READ THE JOINT PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS FILED OR THAT WILL BE FILED WITH THE SEC CAREFULLY AND IN THEIR ENTIRETY BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN OR WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION.** Investors and security holders may obtain free copies of the registration statement and the joint proxy statement/prospectus and other documents filed with the SEC by Comcast or Time Warner Cable through the website maintained by the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>. Copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Comcast are available free of charge on Comcast's website at <http://cmcsa.com> or by contacting Comcast's Investor Relations Department at 866-281-2100. Copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Time Warner Cable will be available free of charge on Time Warner Cable's website at <http://ir.timewarnercable.com> or by contacting Time Warner Cable's Investor Relations Department at 877-446-3689.

Shareholders of Comcast and Time Warner Cable are not being asked to vote on the proposed transaction between Comcast and Charter, and the proposed transaction between Comcast and Time Warner Cable is not contingent upon the proposed transaction between Comcast and Charter.

Comcast, Time Warner Cable, Charter and their respective directors and certain of their respective executive officers may be considered participants in the solicitation of proxies in connection with the proposed transaction between Comcast and Time Warner Cable, and Comcast, Charter and their



respective directors and certain of their respective executive officers may be considered participants in the solicitation of proxies in connection with the proposed transaction between Comcast and Charter. Information about the directors and executive officers of Time Warner Cable is set forth in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, which was filed with the SEC on February 18, 2014, and its preliminary proxy statement for its 2014 annual meeting of stockholders, which was filed with the SEC on April 8, 2014. Information about the directors and executive officers of Comcast is set forth in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, which was filed with the SEC on February 12, 2014, and its proxy statement for its 2014 annual meeting of stockholders, which was filed with the SEC on April 11, 2014. Information about the directors and executive officers of Charter is set forth in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, which was filed with the SEC on February 21, 2014, and its proxy statement for its 2014 annual meeting of stockholders, which was filed with the SEC on March 27, 2014. These documents can be obtained free of charge from the sources indicated above. Additional information regarding the participants in the proxy solicitations and a description of their direct and indirect interests, by security holdings or otherwise, are contained in the preliminary joint proxy statement/prospectus of Comcast and Time Warner Cable filed with the SEC and will be contained in the definitive joint proxy statement/prospectus of Comcast and Time Warner Cable and other relevant materials to be filed with the SEC when they become available, and will also be contained in the preliminary proxy statement/prospectus of Charter when it becomes available.

Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements in this communication regarding the proposed acquisition of Time Warner Cable by Comcast and the proposed transaction between Comcast and Charter, including any statements regarding the expected timetable for completing the transactions, benefits and synergies of the transactions, future opportunities for the respective companies and products, and any other statements regarding Comcast's, Time Warner Cable's and Charter's future expectations, beliefs, plans, objectives, financial conditions, assumptions or future events or performance that are not historical facts are "forward-looking" statements made within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. These statements are often, but not always, made through the use of words or phrases such as "may," "believe," "anticipate," "could," "should," "intend," "plan," "will," "expect(s)," "estimate(s)," "project(s)," "forecast(s)," "positioned," "strategy," "outlook" and similar expressions. All such forward-looking statements involve estimates and assumptions that are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the results expressed in the statements. Among the key factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements are the following: the timing to consummate the proposed transactions; the risk that a condition to closing either of the proposed transactions may not be satisfied; the risk that a regulatory approval that may be required for either of the proposed transactions is not obtained or is obtained subject to conditions that are not anticipated; the parties' ability to achieve the synergies and value creation contemplated by the proposed transactions; the parties' ability to promptly, efficiently and effectively integrate acquired operations into their own operations; and the diversion of management time on transaction-related issues. Additional information concerning these and other factors can be found in Comcast's, Time Warner Cable's and Charter's respective filings with the SEC, including Comcast's, Time Warner Cable's and Charter's most recent Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K. Comcast, Time Warner Cable and Charter assume no obligation to update any forward-looking statements. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements that speak only as of the date hereof.



DIVESTITURE TRANSACTION FACT SHEET

Comcast Corporation and Charter Communications announced that the companies have reached a series of tax-efficient agreements whereby the combined Comcast-Time Warner Cable entity, following completion of Comcast's previously announced merger with Time Warner Cable, will divest systems resulting in a net reduction of approximately 3.9 million video customers. The divestiture follows through on Comcast's willingness to reduce its post-merger total number of managed residential customers to less than 30 percent of the total number of MVPD customers in the United States.

These transactions will proactively address potential competitive concerns and enhance Comcast's and Charter's ability to serve consumers and businesses by filling in key gaps in their respective footprints and improving their geographic presence. They also enable us to deliver meaningful value to our shareholders. We intend to use proceeds from these transactions to reduce our debt in a leverage-neutral manner and expand our share buyback program.

These transactions mark an important step in Comcast's merger with Time Warner Cable. Comcast believes this announcement will facilitate the regulatory review process, as there is now a firm commitment regarding divestitures, relatively early in the process, and the divestiture transactions can be reviewed at the same time as the Comcast-Time Warner Cable merger.

The divestiture will be executed through three separate transactions, which will follow and are subject to the completion of the Comcast-Time Warner Cable merger:

ASSET SALE

Comcast will divest Time Warner Cable systems serving approximately 1.4 million existing Time Warner Cable customers directly to Charter for cash. Charter expects to fund the purchase with proceeds from debt, and to have approximately a 5 times debt to EBITDA leverage ratio at closing.

ASSET TRANSFER

Comcast and Charter will transfer assets serving approximately 1.6 million existing Time Warner Cable customers and 1.6 million Charter customers in a tax-efficient like-kind exchange, improving the geographic presence of both companies, leading to greater operational efficiencies, improved technology deployment, and enhanced customer service.

ASSET SPIN-OFF

Comcast will form and spin off to its shareholders a new, independent, publicly-traded company that will operate systems serving approximately 2.5 million existing Comcast customers. Comcast shareholders, including the former Time Warner Cable shareholders, are expected to own approximately 67 percent of SpinCo, while a new holding company formed by Charter ("New Charter") is expected to directly own approximately 33 percent of SpinCo. SpinCo expects to incur leverage of approximately 5 times estimated pro-forma EBITDA. New Charter will then acquire its interest in SpinCo by issuing New Charter stock to Comcast shareholders (including former Time Warner Cable shareholders). SpinCo's nine-member Board of Directors will include six independent directors and three directors designated by Charter. Comcast will hold no ownership interest in SpinCo (or Charter) and will have no role in managing SpinCo.

One of the key reasons for pursuing these various integrated transactions as opposed to a straight sale is because this structure creates substantial tax efficiencies and savings. Such savings can be used to further reduce debt, and also to invest in jobs, infrastructure, research and development, production activities, and upgrades to existing services, thereby benefiting our customers and enhancing competition. The transactions also benefit consumers by creating a new cable company and by strengthening Charter.

Important Information For Investors And Shareholders

This communication does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities or a solicitation of any vote or approval. In connection with the proposed transaction between Comcast Corporation ("Comcast") and Charter Communications, Inc. ("Charter"), Charter will file with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") a registration statement on Form S-4 that will include a proxy statement of Charter that also constitutes a prospectus of Charter, and a definitive proxy statement/prospectus will be mailed to shareholders of Charter. **INVESTORS AND SECURITY HOLDERS OF COMCAST AND CHARTER ARE URGED TO READ THE PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS THAT WILL BE FILED WITH THE SEC CAREFULLY AND IN THEIR ENTIRETY BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION.** Investors and security holders will be able to obtain free copies of the registration statement and the proxy statement/prospectus (when available) and other documents filed with the SEC by Comcast or Charter through the website maintained by the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>. Copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Comcast are available free of charge on Comcast's website at <http://cmcsa.com> or by contacting Comcast's Investor Relations Department at 866-281-2100. Copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Charter will be available free of charge on Charter's website at charter.com, in the "Investor and News Center" near the bottom of the page, or by contacting Charter's Investor Relations Department at 203-905-7955.

In addition, in connection with the proposed transaction between Comcast and Time Warner Cable Inc. ("Time Warner Cable"), on March 20, 2014, Comcast filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-4 containing a preliminary joint proxy statement of Comcast and Time Warner Cable that also constitutes a preliminary prospectus of Comcast. The registration statement has not yet become effective. After the registration statement is declared effective by the SEC, a definitive joint proxy statement/prospectus will be mailed to shareholders of Comcast and Time Warner Cable. **INVESTORS AND SECURITY HOLDERS OF COMCAST AND TIME WARNER CABLE ARE URGED TO READ THE JOINT PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS FILED OR THAT WILL BE FILED WITH THE SEC CAREFULLY AND IN THEIR ENTIRETY BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN OR WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION.** Investors and security holders may obtain free copies of the registration statement and the joint proxy statement/prospectus and other documents filed with the SEC by Comcast or Time Warner Cable through the website maintained by the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>. Copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Comcast are available free of charge on Comcast's website at <http://cmcsa.com> or by contacting Comcast's Investor Relations Department at 866-281-2100. Copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Time Warner Cable will be available free of charge on Time Warner Cable's website at <http://ir.timewarnercable.com> or by contacting Time Warner Cable's Investor Relations Department at 877-446-3689.

Shareholders of Comcast and Time Warner Cable are not being asked to vote on the proposed transaction between Comcast and Charter, and the proposed transaction between Comcast and Time Warner Cable is not contingent upon the proposed transaction between Comcast and Charter.

Comcast, Time Warner Cable, Charter and their respective directors and certain of their respective executive officers may be considered participants in the solicitation of proxies in connection with the proposed transaction between Comcast and Time Warner Cable, and Comcast, Charter and their respective directors and certain of their respective executive officers may be considered participants in the solicitation of proxies in connection with the proposed transaction between Comcast and Charter. Information about the directors and executive officers of Time Warner Cable is set forth in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, which was filed with the SEC on February 18, 2014, and its preliminary proxy statement for its 2014 annual meeting of stockholders, which was filed with the SEC on April 8, 2014. Information about the directors and executive officers of Comcast is set forth in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, which was filed with the

SEC on February 12, 2014, and its proxy statement for its 2014 annual meeting of stockholders, which was filed with the SEC on April 11, 2014. Information about the directors and executive officers of Charter is set forth in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, which was filed with the SEC on February 21, 2014, and its proxy statement for its 2014 annual meeting of stockholders, which was filed with the SEC on March 27, 2014. These documents can be obtained free of charge from the sources indicated above. Additional information regarding the participants in the proxy solicitations and a description of their direct and indirect interests, by security holdings or otherwise, are contained in the preliminary joint proxy statement/prospectus of Comcast and Time Warner Cable filed with the SEC and will be contained in the definitive joint proxy statement/prospectus of Comcast and Time Warner Cable and other relevant materials to be filed with the SEC when they become available, and will also be contained in the preliminary proxy statement/prospectus of Charter when it becomes available.

Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements in this communication regarding the proposed acquisition of Time Warner Cable by Comcast and the proposed transaction between Comcast and Charter, including any statements regarding the expected timetable for completing the transactions, benefits and synergies of the transactions, future opportunities for the respective companies and products, and any other statements regarding Comcast's, Time Warner Cable's and Charter's future expectations, beliefs, plans, objectives, financial conditions, assumptions or future events or performance that are not historical facts are "forward-looking" statements made within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. These statements are often, but not always, made through the use of words or phrases such as "may", "believe," "anticipate," "could", "should," "intend," "plan," "will," "expect(s)," "estimate(s)," "project(s)," "forecast(s)", "positioned," "strategy," "outlook" and similar expressions. All such forward-looking statements involve estimates and assumptions that are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the results expressed in the statements. Among the key factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements are the following: the timing to consummate the proposed transactions; the risk that a condition to closing either of the proposed transactions may not be satisfied; the risk that a regulatory approval that may be required for either of the proposed transactions is not obtained or is obtained subject to conditions that are not anticipated; the parties' ability to achieve the synergies and value creation contemplated by the proposed transactions; the parties' ability to promptly, efficiently and effectively integrate acquired operations into their own operations; and the diversion of management time on transaction-related issues. Additional information concerning these and other factors can be found in Comcast's, Time Warner Cable's and Charter's respective filings with the SEC, including Comcast's, Time Warner Cable's and Charter's most recent Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K. Comcast, Time Warner Cable and Charter assume no obligation to update any forward-looking statements. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements that speak only as of the date hereof.



One Comcast Center
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

June 17, 2014

Deborah Guthrie
Cable Coordinator
Township of Meridian Charter
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

Re: Comcast Corporation/Midwest Cable, Inc. Transaction

Dear Ms. Guthrie:

As you may have read, Comcast Corporation ("Comcast"), the ultimate parent of the entity holding the cable franchise in your community, is divesting its ownership of certain cable systems in connection with its acquisition of Time Warner Cable. Pursuant to an agreement with Charter Communications, Inc. ("Charter"), Comcast will spin off a new, independent company, which will become Midwest Cable, Inc. ("Midwest Cable," currently known as "SpinCo"), a publicly traded company that will be the ultimate owner of your franchise. Upon completion of the transaction, Comcast shareholders (but not Comcast itself) will own approximately two-thirds (2/3) of Midwest Cable, and Charter will own approximately one-third (1/3) of Midwest Cable.

We note that immediately prior to your cable franchisee becoming an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Midwest Cable (the spin-off), the franchisee will be converted from a corporation to a limited liability company.

With over 2.5 million cable customers, Midwest Cable will begin operations as the fifth largest cable television provider in the United States. Moreover, Midwest Cable's strategic regionalized footprint will allow for a focused and efficient delivery of high quality and innovative services to its customers. Midwest Cable will be led by President and CEO Michael Willner, a 40-year cable industry leader and the co-founder and former CEO of Insight Communications. Further, Midwest's Cable's Board of Directors will include leading communications industry executives and innovators, with current Charter Communications CEO Tom Rutledge serving as Board Chairman. In addition, through a services agreement with Charter, Midwest Cable will be able to take advantage of Charter's expertise in technology and provision of services.

As you are aware, the Michigan Uniform Video Services Local Franchise Act of 2006 ("Franchise Act") established a new "uniform" local franchise, and required that all existing non-uniform franchises be modified to conform to the terms of the uniform franchise. Pursuant to the Franchise Act, the Michigan Public Service Commission established a uniform franchise provision governing all forms of franchise transfer that requires only a notice be sent to local franchising authorities within 15 days of completion of the franchise transfer. In 2012, a federal district court ruling in the *City of Detroit* case addressed certain provisions of the Franchise Act and created uncertainty about the application of the Michigan uniform franchise to certain situations. In light of this uncertainty, we are providing this filing for your review. However, the district court's *City of Detroit* decision is currently under review by the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. In making this filing, Midwest Cable does not waive any argument that consent is not required and that it may proceed exclusively under the Franchise Act.

If you determine that your consent is *not* required for this transaction to proceed, you need not take any further action. If, however, you believe your consent is necessary, we have provided copies of the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") Form 394, other information, and a draft consent resolution to help facilitate the consent process.

- **FCC Form 394.** FCC Form 394 (required copies enclosed) is designed to provide you with the relevant information needed to assess the financial, legal, and technical qualifications of Midwest Cable to be the ultimate parent entity of your cable franchisee.

- **Timing.** According to the FCC's rules, where consent is required, you have a maximum of 120 days from the date you receive this information to review all materials and act upon our request for consent to the transaction. (Please note, your franchise may specify a shorter time frame.)
- **Consent Resolution.** Should you choose to affirmatively consent to the transaction, we have enclosed a draft consent resolution to be used to help expedite the consent process. We would request that a consent resolution, if needed, be placed on your agenda for consideration at your earliest convenience.

We invite you to visit the "Recent Official Transaction Communications" section of <http://corporate.comcast.com/twctransaction/official-filings-together> for additional information about the transaction. If you have any questions about the FCC Form 394, the consent resolution, or any of the enclosed documents, please give me a call at (215) 286-5585, send an email to klay_fennell@comcast.com, or send a facsimile to (215) 286-8408. You may also contact Mark Brown, Vice President, Government Affairs, at Charter by phone at (202) 621-1900, by email at mark.brown@chartercom.com, or by facsimile at (202) 733-5960.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Klayton F. Fennell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Klayton F. Fennell
Vice President, Government Affairs
Attachment and Enclosures

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff Supervisor
Brett Dreyfus Clerk
Julie Brixie Treasurer
Frank L. Walsh Manager



Milton L. Scales Trustee
Ronald J. Styka Trustee
John Veenstra Trustee
Angela Wilson Trustee

July 9, 2014

Klayton F. Fennell
Vice President, Government Affairs
Comcast Cable Communications, LLC
One Comcast Center
Philadelphia, PA, 19103
Tel: 215-286-5585
Fax: 215-286-8408
klay_fennell@comcast.com

Re: Comcast Corporation/Midwest Cable, Inc. Transaction
Application for Consent to Transfer – Notice of Incompleteness

Dear Mr. Fennel:

Thank you for your letter of June 17, 2014 and the attached FCC Form 394 (together, the "Application"), which we did not receive until June 18, 2014.

We understand that the Application describes a transfer of control transaction involving the franchisee serving the Charter Township of Meridian ("Township"), Comcast of Michigan, III, Inc. (the "Franchisee"), which transfer will occur pursuant to an agreement between Comcast Corporation ("Comcast") and Charter Communications, Inc. ("Charter") dated April 25, 2014 ("Transactions Agreement"). Pursuant to the Transactions Agreement, if Comcast's acquisition of Time Warner Cable Inc. is consummated and other conditions in the Transactions Agreement are satisfied, Comcast will cause a series of corporate restructurings and conversions to take place affecting the Franchisee, which ultimately will result in control of the Franchisee being owned by a new company, Midwest Cable, Inc.¹ ("Midwest Cable", also referred to as "SpinCo"). Pursuant to the Cable Television Franchise Renewal Agreement between the Township and the Franchisee (the "Franchise Agreement"), in the Township's view, the Franchisee must obtain the prior consent of the Township for this transaction.

As an initial matter, the Form 394 requires submission of all information required in order to understand the transaction. Much of the details regarding the Franchisee's operations under Midwest Cable's proposed control remain to be developed and/or are unclear from the Application. For example, while it is clear that Comcast will have no ownership or management control over the Franchisee (or Midwest Cable), it is also

¹ The Application notes that Midwest Cable will convert from a limited liability company to a corporation before the close of the transaction.



clear that Charter will have a major impact on the Franchisee's operations both as an owner of approximately one-third of Midwest Cable's shares and through wide-ranging services agreement with Midwest Cable ("Charter Services Agreement"). Yet, the Charter Service Agreement is not attached, and apparently is not even fully negotiated. We do not see how the application can be complete without this basic document, or at the very least, a more detailed description of who will actually perform what tasks, and with what personnel than appears in the application. All we know is that after some unknown transition period, Xfinity will not be involved in providing service. Among other things, without the agreement, we have no way to understand how customers who have the X1 box (which we understand involves Comcast-proprietary technologies) will be impacted by the agreement, and how the company will address the potential cost and inconvenience to customers if equipment change-outs are required. At a minimum, then, we would ask that you either provide the Charter Services Agreement, or describe in detail how services will in fact be provided to subscribers, by whom, and by what staff; and the effect of the transaction on customer equipment. Please update the Application accordingly.

In addition to the incompleteness issue described above, the Township has other concerns about the Application, its completeness and its accuracy. To expedite the Township's review of the Application, we request that you provide the information and documents requested below to the undersigned within ten days from the date of this letter. Given the timeframes we are facing, the parties involved should be prepared to produce all additional information we may request as promptly as possible, or we may find it necessary to deny the transfer request. If a question is already fully answered in the Application, please indicate specifically where the answer may be found.

A. Completeness of the Application

It appears that the Application is incomplete in several respects. Accordingly, the Township does not believe that the 120-day period established by federal law has started to run. Please provide an amended Application, or a supplement to the Application originally filed, containing all of the missing information described below. On the assumption that you will provide the missing information described below, and in the interest of a prompt review of such a completed Application, we will continue our review in the interim based on the information provided so far. By continuing its review, however, the Township does not waive any claim that the Application is incomplete, or that the review period has not yet begun.

The Code of Ordinances for Meridian Township, Section 70-57, states that the "the initial and transfer applications for a franchise to install, construct, maintain or operate a cable system, open video system or other multichannel video provider using or occupying the public right-of-way in the township or to furnish a cable service must:"

1. Include a description and map of the territory within the township in which the cable system, open video system or other multichannel video provider system using or occupying the public right-of-way is to be installed, constructed, maintained or operated or to furnish cable service is to be provided." Sec. 70-57(a)(2). The

Application does not contain the required map. If Midwest Cable is proposing to provide service throughout the Township, it may so state, but if it intends to serve less than the entire Township, a description of the area it intends to serve should be included.

2. Section 70-57(a)(3) of the Township's Municipal Code requires that the Application "[b]e accompanied by a showing of the applicant's legal, financial, technical and other qualifications to be a franchisee..." Exhibit 1 to the Form 394 you submitted, however, states that "[f]our documents (including two programming agreements) have been omitted, as they are not necessary in order to understand the terms of the Agreement or contain confidential trade, business, pricing or marketing information, or other information not otherwise publicly available." As a related matter, the Form 394 itself requires submission of all information required to understand the transaction. We understand you contend that omitted material may be unnecessary to understand the transaction. However, such a conclusory statement is insufficient to satisfy your obligations under the Form 394, as it is impossible for the Township to know whether material is unnecessary without the documents themselves, or at least a more precise understanding of what the material consists. In any case, please provide:

- (a) Copies of all schedules and exhibits to the transaction documents relevant to the transactions described in the Application.
- (b) A complete and detailed list of all redactions or omissions in the documents submitted. In each case, indicate briefly why the redaction or omission was made.
- (c) If you believe that any such information did not need to be submitted in the Application, please indicate for each such item why you believe it did not need to be submitted.

For any other items redacted or omitted in the Application, provide a complete copy.

3. Section 70-57(a)(3)(a) of the Township's Municipal Code requires that the Application include "... a certified copy of the partnership agreement, articles of association, or articles of incorporation, as the case may be, [and] a certified copy of its authorization to do business in the State of Michigan." These documents were not included. Please provide these documents.

4. Section 70-57(a)(3)(b) of the Township's Municipal Code requires that the Application include "... a copy of applicant's current balance sheet as of a date not more than 60 days prior to the date of the application shall be furnished. If a loan or other credit arrangement is to be consummated to finance the establishment and operation of the proposed facilities, full particulars shall be disclosed, including the identity of the creditor." The Application contains some initial financial disclosures, but please ensure that all required information has been provided. To the extent that the applicant is relying upon the financial ability of Charter to perform, the information must be provided for Charter as well.

5. Section 70-57(a)(3)(c) of the Township's Municipal Code requires that the Application include a "... statement of the arrangements to ensure the rendition of good service, including the type and kind of facilities to be employed, the technical standards to be followed, the maintenance and repair facilities to be used, the number and description of technical personnel, including copies of any contracts, agreements or arrangements relating to any of the above." (Emphasis added.) As the discussion of the Charter Services Agreement suggests, this information is missing.

6. Section 70-57(a)(3)(d) of the Township's Municipal Code requires that the Application include "[a] statement as to the location of the antenna site or sites and the location of any places of business in the township." This information is not included either. If these locations will be the same as the current Comcast locations even after the transition period from Comcast to Midwest Cable and Charter, you may so state.

7. Section 70-57(a)(3)(e) of the Township's Municipal Code requires that the Application include "[a] statement as to any affiliated corporations or business organizations engaged in providing service, or Interlocking directorships or ownerships held by any owners, officers or directors of applicant with any other business engaged in providing cable service." The Application generally provides an overview of this information, but does not directly state that it is providing the information required by the cited section. Please either provide the required information, or confirm that the information in the Form 394 includes all the information required by this section.

8. Section 70-57(a)(3)(f) of the Township's Municipal Code requires that the Application include "[a] detailed statement as to the arrangements and timetable by which applicant proposes to construct its cable facilities and system including detailed descriptions of portions of the township to be served by the system within one year, 18 months, two years, 30 months, and three years of the making of the franchise agreement." Based on statements in the Application, we anticipate that no changes in the current service area of the system are planned for the relevant time periods. Please confirm that this is the case.

9. Section 70-57(a)(4) of the Township's Municipal Code states that:

The applicant shall furnish information as to the programming services and public services which it shall provide including:

a. The number of channels offered and the potential for diversified services to local government, educational institutions, community groups, householders and local commercial interests.

b. Projected development of customer and community services, indicating priorities in development, and estimated time schedules.

- c. Cost estimates of development, installation, and maintenance of system, which items shall be deemed to include, but not be limited to, the proposed cost of acquisition of the system where approval of a transfer of the franchise has been requested.
- d. Revenue forecasts for the next five years of service.
- e. A proposed schedule of rates for installation charges, monthly service fees and relocation charges.

While the Application provides some information regarding the provision of cable services by Midwest Cable, it lacks the specificity required under this section. To the extent not already provided, please provide all information required by this section. Of course, if cost/revenue projections specific to Meridian Township have not been developed, applicants can provide pro forma information for a larger unit of which the Township is a part, along with subscriber information to allow us to evaluate the information.

The Application will be deemed complete upon receipt of all of the information and documents identified above; or upon the reaching of an agreement satisfactory to the Township regarding an alternative method for addressing the omissions.

B. Questions About the Effects of the Transaction

We are mindful of 47 C.F.R. § 76.502(b), which states that “[a] franchise authority that questions the accuracy of the information provided under paragraph (a) must notify the cable operator within 30 days of the filing of such information” We wish to avert any possible future question as to whether the Township has preserved all rights it may have during the entire course of the transfer process to question the accuracy of the information provided, to require additional support for the claims made in the Application, or to evaluate the completeness of the Application pursuant to applicable federal law. For this reason, the Township hereby notifies you that it “questions the accuracy of the information provided” for purposes of 47 C.F.R. § 76.502(b) with respect to all information in the Application, and reserves, without limitation, all its rights to seek further information and to raise further questions.

Among other things, the information submitted in the Application does not appear to provide sufficient support for all of the Application’s claims made about the proposed transfer, or to show that Midwest Cable, considered on its own, or in light of the Charter Services Agreement, will be financially, technically or legally able to perform as promised. For example, the Application states that Midwest Cable “... has no current plans to change the terms and conditions of service or operation of the system.” This statement seems highly questionable in light of what the application does say about the Charter Services Agreement. We also must consider whether the company is likely to have the financial resources to meet the future needs and interests of the community in light of Comcast’s position that the franchise is about to expire, or whether the transaction should even be approved given Comcast’s view as to the franchise’s imminent expiration (as you know, the Township’s view was that the franchise does not expire until July 31, 2020, but Comcast has insisted that the franchise will expire in one

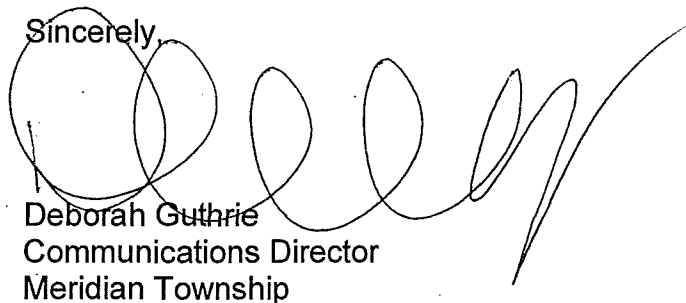
year). We also question whether Comcast is in compliance with all its obligations, including franchise fee obligations, under the existing franchise.

At the same time, of course, we expect to work with you in resolving such questions as may arise. We anticipate your cooperation in promptly providing all the information the Township may need to make a sound decision regarding the Application.

In the event of any change in any of the information or documents submitted with the Application or provided subsequently, whether by amendment, lapse of time, change of facts making such information inaccurate, or for any other reason, we request that you notify us of such change or amendment as soon as possible, without the need for the Township to periodically inquire about actual or potential changes.

We look forward to your response. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Deborah Guthrie
Communications Director
Meridian Township

cc: Joseph VanEaton
Mike Watza



One Comcast Center
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

VIA E-MAIL AND OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

July 21, 2014

Deborah Guthrie
Communications Director
Meridian Township
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, Michigan 48864
Phone: 517.853.4000

Re: Comcast Corporation/Midwest Cable, Inc. Transaction

Dear Ms. Guthrie:

We are writing in response to the letter we received on July 11, 2014, requesting certain additional information regarding the FCC Form 394 ("Application for Franchise Authority Consent to Assignment or Transfer of Control of Cable Television Franchise," or the "Application") that was filed with the Charter Township of Meridian ("Meridian" or the "Township") for consent to the transfer of control of Comcast of Michigan, III, Inc. ("Franchisee"), and questioning whether the Application is complete and accurate. As explained in the Application, this transfer will take place pursuant to an agreement between Comcast Corporation ("Comcast") and Charter Communications, Inc. ("Charter"), by which Comcast will spin-off a new, independent company, which will become Midwest Cable, Inc. ("Midwest Cable," currently known as "SpinCo"), creating a new publicly traded company whose initial ownership will be held approximately one-third by Charter and approximately two-thirds by Comcast shareholders (but not Comcast itself) (the "Transaction").

As an initial matter, we should reiterate our position that the Michigan Uniform Video Services Local Franchise Act of 2006 ("Franchise Act") is fully applicable to Meridian Township and allows us to proceed under the Franchise Act's transfer provision -- which requires only that a notice be sent to local franchising authorities within 15 days of completion of the transfer transaction. We note that the *City of Detroit* decision: (1) currently is under review by the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit; (2) does not address the Franchise Act's transfer provision; and (3) has no precedential effect outside of the Eastern District of Michigan - - and therefore is not binding in Meridian Township. The provision of the additional information in this response letter does not in any way waive our above-stated position.

That said, Midwest Cable's leadership has a long history of engaging with the consumers, employees, and communities they serve, and the company expects that to continue. Midwest Cable views its relationship with the Township as a partnership, and it expects this approval process to be the first step in a fruitful relationship with the communities Midwest Cable will serve.

Deborah Guthrie
July 21, 2014
Page 2 of 8

We understand and respect the importance of the Township's review process, and it is our goal that the process be an efficient and cooperative one. We appreciate the Township's interest in learning more specifics about future operational plans for the local cable system, and we will endeavor in good faith to provide the Township with such additional information. It is worth emphasizing here that the local operating Franchisee entity will remain in place after completion of this Transaction. As such, the Transaction will not alter the Franchisee's obligations to operate the cable system in a manner that is consistent with applicable franchise terms, nor does the Transaction mandate any specific operational changes. Further, as described below, no decisions regarding specific operational changes have been made by Midwest Cable.

We must, however, respectfully disagree with the suggestion in your letter that the Application was incomplete or inaccurate. The Application included all required information and demonstrates that the Transaction presents a terrific opportunity for Midwest Cable and the Township. While the Township may request – and we intend to provide -- additional information that will help you understand the Transaction, that does not render the Application incomplete. Our cooperation in this matter will not affect the fact that the Application was complete as filed.

Even assuming for the sake of argument that the Application was incomplete, while franchise authorities have the right to question the completeness or accuracy of an FCC Form 394 Application, as long as the cable operator cures any alleged deficiencies within ten days of receipt of notice, the 120-day time frame is not tolled. Therefore, the 120-day period for consideration of the Application began on the date on which the Form 394 application was filed with the Township's member communities, and continues uninterrupted.

Federal law limits the scope of review and information the Township may require as part of the approval process for transfer of a franchise. Beyond the information required by the FCC Form 394 or franchise agreement, a local franchising authority ("LFA") is limited to requesting "such additional information as may be reasonably necessary to determine the qualifications of the proposed transferee."¹ As we understand the Township's requests for additional information, it appears that some of the information it seeks is unrelated to the Transaction under review and is beyond what is reasonably necessary to assess the qualifications of Midwest Cable. As such, it appears that this information exceeds the authority of the Township to require as part of the review of the Application.

Beyond evaluating the legal, financial, and technical qualifications of Midwest Cable to assume control over the local cable Franchisee, your letter seeks details regarding future system operations. Midwest Cable does not yet own these properties and has not yet established definitive plans for future operations, and it would be premature for Midwest Cable to have

¹ *Implementation of Sections 11 and 13 of the Cable Television and Competition Act of 1992*, Report and Order, 8 F.C.C.R. 6828, ¶ 86 (1993). See also *id.* at ¶ 85; See *Implementation of Sections 11 and 13 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, Memorandum Opinion and Order on Reconsideration, 10 F.C.C.R. 4654, 4676, ¶¶ 50-53 (1995). In addition, within the first thirty days of receiving the FCC Form 394 Application, an LFA may require the applicant to provide additional information to cure an application's inaccuracy or incompleteness. See 47 C.F.R. § 76.502(b).

already adopted such plans. Instead, the relevant issue is whether Midwest Cable is fully qualified to acquire control of the Franchisee. The Application makes clear that Midwest Cable will be qualified: it will be led by cable veteran Michael Willner and a respected Board of Directors, will be operated with the benefit of existing local Comcast employees, and will have the ability to deploy Charter-provided services as needed.

Although your letter seeks detail on precisely how Midwest Cable and Charter will divide operational duties on a day-to-day basis, those details (which do not implicate Midwest Cable's underlying qualifications) are still being addressed. As explained below, the FCC Form 394 Exhibit 7 has identified a range of services Charter will make available to Midwest Cable, pursuant to the terms of the Charter Services Agreement ("CSA").² The Application also explains that "all system operational services provided by Charter will be subject to the overall supervision of Midwest Cable's independent executive management team and its independent Board of Directors." It will be up to that management team to determine which services it wants Charter to provide under the CSA.

It is a significant and positive development that Midwest Cable has already secured a commitment from Charter (which will then be the nation's second largest cable operator) to provide operational support. Moreover, because Charter will have a substantial financial stake in Midwest Cable, it will have a compelling business reason to ensure that any services it provides to Midwest Cable support successful, high-quality day-to-day operations.

While we appreciate your request for further information regarding Comcast subscriber equipment and retail support, that inquiry lies beyond the Township's scope of review. The Township does not have regulatory oversight over Comcast's X1 platform and the Communications Act precludes local franchising authorities from regulating a cable operator's choice of transmission technology, including set-top boxes. We can assure you that if any equipment change is made, it will be undertaken in a manner that minimizes disruption to existing subscribers.³

Specific Questions and Requests

A. Completeness of the Application

1. You first question why the Application does not contain a map of the territory within the Township in which the Franchisee will operate after the Transaction. You state: "If Midwest Cable is proposing to provide service throughout the Township, it may so state, but if it intends to serve less than the entire Township, a description of the area it intends to serve should be included."

² A detailed listing of these services is provided in Annex 1 to the Comcast/Charter Transaction Agreement, which, as identified in Exhibit 1 to the Form 394, is available at <http://corporate.comcast.com/twctransaction/official-filings-together> under "Official Filings."

³ As the Application explains, "[i]mmediately after the closing of the transaction, Comcast will provide some temporary transition operational services that will allow current Comcast customers to experience a seamless transition to Midwest Cable's ownership and operation of the cable systems."

RESPONSE: Under Midwest Cable, the Franchisee will operate the same system over the same footprint in the Township as is currently operated by the Franchisee.

2. The Township also requests:
 - a. Copies of all schedules and exhibits to the transaction documents relevant to the transactions described in the Application.
 - b. A complete and detailed list of all redactions or omissions in the documents submitted. In each case, indicate briefly why the redaction or omission was made.
 - c. If you believe that any such information did not need to be submitted in the Application, please indicate for each such item why you believe it did not need to be submitted.
 - d. For any other items redacted or omitted in the Application, provide a complete copy.

RESPONSE: All schedules and exhibits to the Comcast/Charter Agreement are included in the SEC Form 8-K identified in the Form 394.⁴ Specifically, the Comcast/Charter Agreement includes: Annex A (Governance, Management and Services Framework); Annex 1 (Services); Annex B (Step-Up Annex); Annex C (Arbitration Annex); Schedule 1 (Financing); and Schedule 2 (Subscriber Divestiture). There are no other exhibits and there are no redactions to the Comcast/Charter Agreement contained in the SEC Form 8-K or any exhibits or redaction to any of the annexes and schedules.

With respect to the four agreements referenced in Exhibit 1 to the FCC Form 394, two of those agreements were included with the SEC Form 8-K and are available for the Township's review. *See* SEC Form 8-K, Exhibit 2.2 (Voting Agreement between Comcast Corporation and Liberty Media Corporation) and Exhibit 99.1 (Time Warner Consent Agreement). The other two agreements were already identified as programming agreements in the FCC Form 394. As such, they are unnecessary to understand the terms of the Transaction and are also proprietary and confidential. One of these programming agreements concerns NBCU programming and the other agreement concerns STARZ programming. These agreements were not provided to the Township because the instructions to FCC Form 394 expressly state that exhibits or schedules are to be submitted only if "necessary in order to understand the terms" of the Transaction, and that confidential trade, business, pricing or marketing information, or other information not otherwise publicly available, may be redacted. As expressly permitted by the FCC Form 394, Comcast is not required to submit such information.

3. Next, the Township requests "... a certified copy of the partnership agreement, articles of association, or articles of incorporation, as the case may be, ... [and] a certified copy of its authorization to do business in the State of Michigan."

RESPONSE: The current Franchisee, Comcast of Michigan III, Inc., which is organized as a Delaware corporation, will be converted to an LLC prior to the closing of the Transaction, but

⁴ See <http://corporate.comcast.com/twctransaction/official-filings-together> under "Official Filings."

will remain the Franchisee after the Transaction. Pursuant to Delaware law, the conversion from an Inc. to an LLC is by right. The certificate of formation and the authorization to do business in Michigan for the Franchisee are attached hereto. Also attached hereto is the certificate of formation for Midwest Cable, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company. At the closing of the Transaction, Midwest Cable, LLC will be converted to an Inc., which is also a by right conversion under Delaware law. Midwest Cable, Inc. will be the ultimate parent of the Franchisee, but will not itself operate in the State of Michigan.

4. The Township also requests "... a copy of applicant's current balance sheet as of a date not more than 60 days prior to the date of the application shall be furnished" and "[i]f a loan or other credit arrangement is to be consummated to finance the establishment and operation of the proposed facilities, full particulars shall be disclosed, including the identity of the creditor." Meridian also requests Charter's financial information "[t]o the extent the applicant is relying upon the financial ability of Charter to perform."

RESPONSE: The Application provides a detailed demonstration of Midwest Cable's financial qualifications to become the cable system franchisee and to own and operate the existing cable system serving Meridian Township. As explained in the Application, Midwest Cable will have sufficient capital to support its operations from the start, and indeed will have an estimated enterprise value of \$14.7 billion, and over \$4.5 billion in annual revenue.

Midwest Cable does not intend to rely upon Charter's financial ability to perform. While Charter will be a shareholder of and a vendor to Midwest Cable, Midwest Cable will be an independent public company with its own management team and board of directors. Charter will provide services to Midwest pursuant to the Charter Services Agreement as described in the Form 394. Because Midwest Cable will not be relying on Charter's financial ability to provide cable service to Meridian Township, a review of Charter's financial information as part of this process is unnecessary and exceeds Meridian's scope of review. In any event, a public company, Charter's financial information is also publicly available to Meridian.⁵

5. The Township requests a "... statement of the arrangements to ensure the rendition of good service, including the type and kind of facilities to be employed, the technical standards to be followed, the maintenance and repair facilities to be used, the number and description of technical personnel, including copies of any contracts, agreements or arrangements relating to any of the above."

RESPONSE: Midwest Cable has not yet finalized its plans for future operations, but it has no current plans to modify the "type and kind of facilities to be employed," "the technical standards to be followed," the "maintenance and repair facilities to be used," or the "number and description of technical personnel." At this point, detailed inquiry into those matters is premature. Beyond the information required by the FCC Form 394 or franchise agreement, an LFA may only request "such additional information as may be reasonably necessary to

⁵See <http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=112298&p=IROLsecToc&TOC=aHR0cDovL2FwaS50ZW5rd2l6YXJkLmNvbS9vdXRsaW5lLnhtbD9yZXBvPXRlbmsmaXBhZ2U9OTQxMTgzMiZzdWJzaWQ9NTc%3d&ListAll=1&sXBRL=1>

determine the qualifications of the proposed transferee.”⁶ That limitation reflects the reality that cable operators are not “prescient” and therefore cannot “be held to unreasonable or unrealistic expectations to foretell future events.”⁷ Accordingly, it is beyond the scope of Meridian’s authority to require definitive descriptions of – or seek commitments concerning – Midwest Cable’s future operations, including the types of facilities Midwest Cable will employ, its technical standards, the maintenance and repair facilities it will use, and the number of technical personnel it will employ.

In any event, however, the Township can be assured that Midwest Cable will “ensure the rendition of good service.” Midwest Cable will be led by a team of cable industry veterans, including cable veteran Michael Willner, overseen by an independent and highly qualified board of directors. Mr. Willner is a 40-year cable industry veteran with over 25 years of experience as the CEO of a large cable company, Insight Communications (“Insight”). Insight was a publicly traded company from 1999- 2005 and was privately held from 1985-1999 and from 2005 until its sale for \$3 billion in 2012. During his tenure as CEO, he made customer service and innovation watchwords for the over 1000 communities in over 20 states that Insight served. For four consecutive years, Insight led the entire cable industry in the addition of basic cable subscribers, resulting in increased employment and revenues for the communities Insight served as well as higher return for shareholders. In recognition for his commitments to the consumer, Mr. Willner was chosen by MultiChannel News as its 2008 Cable Executive of the Year and Insight was chosen as the MSO of the year by CableFax Magazine also in 2008. Insight was recognized as Communication Technology’s Operator of the year in 2003, highlighting the deployment of advanced services to small and mid-sized communities across the Midwest. In addition, Mr. Willner twice served as Chairman of the National Cable and Telecommunications Association, the cable industry’s principal trade organization, and has held numerous board and executive committee seats for other cable-industry related organizations. He was selected by his peers for induction into the Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame and, the Cable Hall of Fame, and he received the cable industry’s highest honor, the Vanguard Award, in 2004. Mr. Willner’s track record of leadership of superior cable operations ensures that Midwest Cable will be a strong local service provider in the Township.

Moreover, “[m]any existing, experienced Comcast field personnel who have been operating the systems will come on board as part of the spin-off and ensure continued high-quality operation.”⁸ After the transition, Midwest Cable will have the ability to decide how and when to take advantage of services Charter may provide under the CSA at Midwest Cable’s direction, including Charter’s substantial technology expertise. Again, Midwest Cable’s ability to rely on

⁶ *Implementation of Sections 11 and 13 of the Cable Television and Competition Act of 1992*, Report and Order, 8 F.C.C.R. 6828, ¶ 86 (1993). See also *id.* at ¶ 85; See *Implementation of Sections 11 and 13 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, Memorandum Opinion and Order on Reconsideration, 10 F.C.C.R. 4654, 4676, ¶¶ 50-53 (1995). In addition, within the first thirty days of receiving the FCC Form 394 Application, an LFA may require the applicant to provide additional information to cure an application’s inaccuracy or incompleteness. See 47 C.F.R. § 76.502(b).

⁷ *Memorandum Opinion & Order in MM Docket 92-264*, 10 F.C.C.R. at ¶55 (January 30, 1995).

⁸ Public Interest Statement, Transfer of Cable Systems from Comcast to Spinco, MB Docket No. 14-57 at 10 (June 5, 2014) (“Spinco Public Interest Statement”) available at <http://corporate.comcast.com/twctransaction/official-filings-together-under-Official-Filings>.”

services support from Charter helps to demonstrate its qualifications to be the parent entity over the franchisee in the Township.

6. The Township requests “[a] statement as to the location of the antenna site or sites and the location of any places of business in the township.”

RESPONSE: Applicant’s responses above are incorporated here by reference. Midwest Cable has no plans at this time to change the current locations of antenna sites or places of business of the cable system.

7. Your letter references the requirement in Section 70-57(a)(3)(e) of the Township’s Municipal Code, and states that “[t]he Application generally provides an overview of this information, but does not directly state that it is providing the information required by the cited section. Please either provide the required information, or confirm that the information in the Form 394 includes all the information required by this section.”

RESPONSE: As you note, the Form 394, and materials submitted therewith, provides the information required by this section.

8. The Township also requests “[a] detailed statement as to the arrangements and timetable by which applicant proposes to construct its cable facilities and system including detailed descriptions of portions of the township to be served by the system within one year, 18 months, two years, 30 months, and three years of the making of the franchise agreement.”

RESPONSE: Applicant’s responses above are incorporated here by reference. Midwest Cable does not propose any changes to the operation or service area of the franchisee’s cable system as result of the proposed Transaction.

9. The Township also requests

- a. The number of channels offered and the potential for diversified services to local government, educational institutions, community groups, householders and local commercial interests.
- b. Projected development of customer and community services, indicating priorities in development, and estimate time schedules.
- c. Cost estimates of development, installation, and maintenance of system, which items shall be deemed to include, but not be limited to, the proposed cost of acquisition of the system where approval of a transfer of the franchise has been requested.
- d. Revenue forecasts for the next five years of services.
- e. A proposed schedule of rates for installation charges, monthly service fees and relocation charges.

RESPONSE: Applicant’s responses above are incorporated here by reference. These requests for additional information are premature and also are not reasonably related to determining

Deborah Guthrie
July 21, 2014
Page 8 of 8

Midwest Cable's financial, legal, or technical qualifications to own the cable system.⁹ Please know that any changes Midwest Cable makes to the cable system's offerings or operations will be based on addressing marketplace needs and interests. To the extent that such changes are considered in the future, Midwest Cable will consider Meridian's needs, provide customers with reasonable notice of any such changes, and ensure that any such changes will be carried out in such a way as to minimize disruption to customers.


B. Questions About the Effects of the Transaction

In your letter you state that you "question the accuracy of the information provided . . . with respect to all information in the Application." The only specific allegation of inaccuracy addresses the Application's statement that Midwest Cable "has no current plans to change the terms and conditions of service or operation of the system." You allege that "statement seems highly questionable in light of what the application does say about the Charter Services Agreement." The statement in the Application is accurate. As explained above, there are no specific plans at this time to change the terms and conditions of service or operation of the system. While there will clearly be a managerial change from the existing Comcast management, that change was fully disclosed in the Form 394.

More generally, with respect to future operational plans for the cable system, the FCC has explained that "[w]e do not expect cable operators to be prescient, nor is the question intended to elicit uncertain future possibilities. We do not foresee cable operators being held to unreasonable or unrealistic expectations to foretell future events, or being held accountable for failing to predict the future course of events."¹⁰ And, again, any changes will be disclosed, geared toward benefiting the Franchisee's customers, and undertaken in a manner that will cause the least disruption.

We hope the above information is helpful. We look forward to working with you toward a successful Application review process. As always, please feel free to contact me at (215) 286-5585, send an email to klay_fennell@comcast.com, or send a facsimile to (215) 286-8408.

Sincerely,



Klayton F. Fennell
Vice President, Government Affairs
Enclosures

⁹ See n.2, *supra*.

¹⁰ *Memorandum Opinion & Order in MM Docket 92-264*, 10 F.C.C.R. at ¶55 (January 30, 1995).



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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DA 14-986

Released: July 10, 2014

**COMMISSION SEEKS COMMENT ON APPLICATIONS OF COMCAST CORPORATION,
TIME WARNER CABLE INC., CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS, INC., AND SPINCO TO
ASSIGN AND TRANSFER CONTROL OF FCC LICENSES AND OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS**

MB Docket No. 14-57

Comments/Petitions Due: August 25, 2014

Responses to Comments/Oppositions to Petitions Due: September 23, 2014

Replies to Responses/Oppositions Due: October 8, 2014

On April 8, 2014, Comcast Corporation (“Comcast”) and Time Warner Cable Inc. (“TWC”) submitted joint applications to the Commission seeking consent to transfer control of various Commission licenses and other authorizations pursuant to Sections 214 and 310(d) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (“Act”).¹ The proposed Comcast-TWC transfers, if completed, would effectuate the sale of certain cable systems and assets of TWC and its affiliates and related entities to subsidiaries or affiliates of Comcast. Additionally, in connection with the proposed Comcast-TWC transaction, Time Warner Entertainment–Advance/Newhouse Partnership (“TWE-A/N”) and Comcast have submitted applications for the transfer to Comcast of TWE-A/N’s interest in licenses and other authorizations held by Bright House Networks, LLC (“Bright House”).²

¹ See 47 U.S.C. §§ 214, 310(d); *Applications of Comcast Corp. and Time Warner Cable Inc. for Consent to Transfer Control of Licenses and Authorizations, Applications and Public Interest Statement* (filed Apr. 8, 2014) (“Comcast-TWC Application”).

² *Id.* at 173 n.468. According to the Comcast-TWC Application, TWC holds 66.67 percent of TWE-A/N, which in turn is the sole LLC member of Bright House. *Id.* Advance/Newhouse Partnership — an entity in which TWC holds no legal or economic interest — holds the remaining 33.33 percent of TWE-A/N. *Id.* According to the Comcast-TWC Application, TWC provides to Bright House certain services, such as programming and technology support, in exchange for an annual fee but does not share in its profits and losses. *Id.* By contrast, according to Comcast and TWC, Advance/Newhouse Partnership exercises exclusive day-to-day management responsibility for, and *de facto* control over, the operation of the Bright House systems. *Id.*

cycle.⁸ On June 24, 2014, Comcast, Charter, and TWC submitted a letter to provide additional data and information about Comcast, Charter, and SpinCo, as well as Bright House, following the Comcast-TWC transaction and the Divestiture Transactions.⁹

We seek comment from interested persons to assist the Commission in its independent review of all proposed transfers of licenses and other authorizations referred to in this Public Notice.¹⁰ The details of the proposed transfers and the procedures on how to file petitions to deny and comments are set forth below.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED TRANSACTIONS

According to the Comcast-TWC Application, Comcast has entered into an agreement with TWC whereby Comcast will acquire 100 percent of TWC's equity in exchange for shares of Comcast Class A stock.¹¹ Comcast and TWC state that the proposed transaction is a straightforward acquisition of TWC, and that Comcast plans to retain all of TWC's existing assets, subject to divestitures of cable systems totaling approximately 3.9 million video subscribers.¹² According to the Comcast-TWC Application, at the closing of the transaction, Tango Acquisition Sub, Inc. ("TAS"), a new direct wholly owned subsidiary of Comcast, will merge with TWC under Delaware law.¹³ At that time, the separate corporate existence of TAS will cease and, thereafter, TWC will be a wholly owned subsidiary of Comcast.¹⁴

⁸ *Id.* at 2. Comcast and TWC note that the closing of the Comcast-TWC transaction is a pre-condition to the Divestiture Transactions and therefore request that the Commission grant approvals for the Comcast-TWC transaction and the Divestiture Transactions at the same time. *Id.* at 2 n.4. They also state that, should the closing of the Divestiture Transactions be delayed, or should it fail to occur, Comcast may need the ability to own all of the TWC systems for a period of 12 to 18 months following the closing of the Comcast-TWC transaction in order to complete divestiture in the least disruptive manner. *Id.*

⁹ See June 24, 2014 Supplement Letter.

¹⁰ A list of the licenses and authorizations subject to the filed applications is included in the Attachment to this Public Notice.

¹¹ Comcast-TWC Application at 7.

¹² *Id.*; Comcast-TWC Supplement Letter at 3. Comcast is currently the largest multichannel video programming distributor ("MVPD") in the United States and owns and operates cable systems serving approximately 22.6 million video customers. See Comcast-TWC Application at 8; June 24, 2014 Supplement Letter at 2. TWC is the fourth-largest MVPD in the United States, serving approximately 11.4 million video customers. Comcast-TWC Application at 14. Following all of the proposed transactions, including divestitures, Comcast would serve approximately 29.8 million managed video subscribers (or less than 30 percent of MVPD subscribers nationwide). June 24, 2014 Supplement Letter at 2. Moreover, following the Divestiture Transactions, Comcast would operate in 16 of the top 20 Designated Market Areas, the same number as it does today. Comcast-TWC Supplement Letter at 3. In addition to its 29.8 million managed video subscribers post-transaction, as noted above, Comcast will acquire TWC's attributable interest in cable systems managed by Bright House. According to the applicants, following the proposed transactions, Bright House will serve approximately 2.1 million video subscribers. June 24, 2014 Supplement Letter at 12.

¹³ Comcast-TWC Application at 7.

¹⁴ *Id.*

will be prohibited from owning more than one percent of SpinCo's shares.²⁶ The SpinCo Public Interest Statement states that Charter will be prohibited from increasing its stake in SpinCo for the first two years post-closing and, absent approval from SpinCo's non-Charter directors or its non-Charter shareholders, Charter will be prohibited from owning more than 49 percent of the company for the first four years.²⁷ Finally, Charter will make an array of services available to SpinCo pursuant to a three-year services agreement (with automatic one-year renewals unless terminated by either party), in exchange for which, SpinCo will make quarterly payments to Charter equal to 4.25 percent of SpinCo's quarterly gross revenues, plus the cost of the services rendered.²⁸

In their application, Comcast and TWC assert that the proposed Comcast-TWC transaction will generate substantial public interest benefits that would not occur as broadly or as rapidly absent the transaction.²⁹ In particular, Comcast and TWC assert that efficiencies and synergies flowing from the transaction will allow the combined company to "forge a faster path to all-digital systems, higher broadband speeds, more advanced video and voice services, a more secure network, better system reliability, and other benefits to consumers, businesses, and the public interest generally."³⁰ According to Comcast and TWC, following completion of the several proposed transactions, Comcast will expand its video subscriber base by approximately seven million customers and will reach additional markets in which it previously had limited or no presence (e.g., New York City, Los Angeles, and Dallas-Fort Worth).³¹ Comcast and TWC assert that TWC customers, in particular, will benefit from the substantial upgrades that Comcast intends to make to the TWC network.³² In addition, Comcast commits to extending its low-income broadband adoption program — known as "Internet Essentials" — throughout the territories that it is acquiring.³³ Moreover, Comcast also commits to extending to those territories many of the commitments and conditions that it is bound by under the *Comcast-NBCU Order*,³⁴

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ *Id.* at 4.

²⁸ *Id.* at 3-4. In conjunction with the services agreement between SpinCo and Charter, there will be a temporary transition services agreement between SpinCo and Comcast to ensure that customers moving from Comcast to SpinCo experience minimal service disruption. *Id.* at 3.

²⁹ Comcast-TWC Application at 23-28.

³⁰ *Id.* at 28.

³¹ *Id.* at 25-26; Comcast-TWC Supplement Letter at 3. Comcast and TWC also note that the acquisition of TWC systems will provide Comcast with access to several markets that are clustered near its existing markets (e.g., in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia). Comcast-TWC Application at 26.

³² Specifically, Comcast commits to "adding substantial incremental investment to what TWC had planned for broadband upgrades and enhancements over the next three years." *Id.* at 28.

³³ *Id.* at 59-66; Comcast-TWC Supplement Letter at 6.

³⁴ See *Applications of Comcast Corporation, General Electric Company and NBC Universal, Inc. for Consent to Assign Licenses and Transfer Control of Licensees*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 26 FCC Rcd 4238 (2011) ("*Comcast-NBCU Order*").

extension of Comcast's conditions and commitments from the NBCUniversal transaction.⁴³ Divestiture Applicants further assert that SpinCo — with nearly 2.5 million video subscribers — will have sufficient scale post-transaction to compete as a standalone company, and through its services agreement with Charter, it will provide its customers with access to Charter's industry-leading broadband products and services.⁴⁴

In addition to the affirmative public interest benefits set forth in their application, Comcast and TWC assert that the proposed Comcast-TWC transaction will not result in any public interest harms. Comcast and TWC contend that, because their two companies serve almost entirely distinct geographic areas, the transaction will reduce neither competition nor consumer choice among broadband, video, or voice providers.⁴⁵ In addition, Comcast and TWC contend that Comcast's increased scale as a buyer of video programming will not cause competitive harm because, following the Divestiture Transactions, Comcast will manage systems serving fewer than 30 percent of the total MVPD subscribers in the United States.⁴⁶ Comcast and TWC further argue that, given consumer demand for edge provider offerings, as well as the competitive nature of the broadband market, the combined company will have neither the incentive nor the ability to restrict access to its high-speed Internet customers.⁴⁷ Finally, Comcast and TWC assert that the transaction complies fully with the Communications Act and all Commission rules.⁴⁸

Divestiture Applicants similarly contend that the Divestiture Transactions will not create any public interest harms. In particular, they assert that Comcast, TWC, and Charter each serve distinct geographic markets today, and therefore the Divestiture Transactions — like the Comcast-TWC transaction — will not reduce the number of competitive choices for consumers.⁴⁹ In addition, they assert that the Divestiture Transactions do not pose any vertical integration concerns as no national

⁴³ Charter-to-Comcast Exchange Public Interest Statement at 10-12.

⁴⁴ SpinCo Public Interest Statement at 14.

⁴⁵ Comcast-TWC Application at 138. Comcast and TWC state that, after taking into account the Divestiture Transactions, there is an overlap of approximately 780 residential or small- or medium-sized business customers, and approximately 190 business customers, in the two companies' service areas. Comcast-TWC Supplement Letter at 4-5.

⁴⁶ Comcast-TWC Application at 143; Comcast-TWC Supplement Letter at 3. Comcast and TWC note that 30 percent had previously been identified by the Commission as the appropriate threshold for its cable ownership cap, but that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia twice rejected a 30 percent cap, most recently in 2009. Comcast-TWC Application at 143-44 (citing *Comcast Corp. v. FCC*, 579 F.3d 1 (D.C. Cir. 2009); *Time Warner Entm't Co. v. FCC*, 240 F.3d 1126 (D.C. Cir. 2001)).

⁴⁷ Comcast-TWC Application at 156-64.

⁴⁸ *Id.* at 171-73.

⁴⁹ Charter-to-Comcast Exchange Public Interest Statement at 12-13; Comcast-to-Charter Sale/Exchange Public Interest Statement at 18; SpinCo Public Interest Statement at 20. Divestiture Applicants note that approximately 2,800 Comcast residential or small- or medium-sized business customers are located in Charter's service areas (and the number of Charter customers in Comcast service areas is similar), as well as approximately 1,500 TWC residential or small- or medium-sized business customers located in Charter's service areas (and 790 Charter customers in TWC service areas). Charter-to-Comcast Exchange Public Interest Statement at 13 n.31.

Commission's grant of consent to the transfer of control of the licenses and other authorizations include the authority for Comcast to acquire control of: (1) any licenses and other authorizations issued to TWC or to its subsidiaries or affiliates during the Commission's consideration of the applications and the period required for the consummation of the proposed transaction following approval; and (2) applications that will have been filed by TWC or its subsidiaries or its affiliates and that are pending at the time of consummation of the proposed transaction.⁵⁷

EX PARTE STATUS OF THIS PROCEEDING

Pursuant to section 1.1200(a) of the Commission's rules,⁵⁸ the Commission may in its discretion modify the *ex parte* procedures in particular proceedings if the public interest so requires. As we have previously announced, these applications will be governed by the permit-but-disclose *ex parte* procedures that are applicable to non-restricted proceedings under section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules.⁵⁹ Parties making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that they must file notices of the presentations which must contain, with regard to material already in the written record, either a succinct summary of the matters discussed or a citation to the page or paragraph number in the party's written submission(s) where the matters discussed can be found, and with regard to any new information, a summary of the new data and arguments presented. Memoranda must contain a summary of the substance of the *ex parte* presentation and not merely a listing of the subjects discussed. More than a one or two sentence description of the views and arguments presented is generally required. All of the disclosure requirements pertaining to oral and written *ex parte* presentations are set forth in section 1.1206(b).⁶⁰ Requests for exemptions from the disclosure requirements pursuant to section 1.1204(a)(9)⁶¹ may be made to Jonathan Sallet at (202) 418-1700 or Hillary Burchuk (202) 418-1719.

REQUESTS FOR EX PARTE MEETINGS

All requests for meetings with Commission staff regarding this Docket should be made online, using the link at http://transition.fcc.gov/transaction/comcast-twc_exparte-meeting-request. Those who lack Internet access may direct their requests to Vanessa Lemmé, Media Bureau, (202) 418-2611.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The applications for assignment and transfer of control of the licenses and other authorizations referred to in this Public Notice have been accepted for filing upon initial review. The Commission reserves the right to return any application if, upon further examination, it is determined to be defective and not in conformance with the Commission's rules, regulations, or policies.

⁵⁷ Comcast-TWC Application at 174. Likewise, Divestiture Applicants have made equivalent requests with respect to the Divestiture Transactions. See Comcast-to-Charter Sale/Exchange Public Interest Statement at 20-21; SpinCo Public Interest Statement at 22.

⁵⁸ 47 C.F.R. § 1.1200(a).

⁵⁹ *Id.* § 1.1206; see also *Commission Announces That the Applications Proposing the Transfer of Control of the Licenses and Authorizations Held by Time Warner Cable, Inc. and Its Subsidiaries to Comcast Corporation Have Been Filed and Permit-But-Disclose Ex Parte Procedures Now Apply*, Public Notice, 29 FCC Rcd 3741 (2014).

⁶⁰ 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b).

⁶¹ *Id.* § 1.1204(a)(9).

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

**COMPLAINTS/
COMPLIMENTS**

Kristi Schaeding

From: Laurie Robison <LRobison@cata.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 1:37 PM
To: Kristi Schaeding
Cc: Deborah Guthrie; Robert Gingerich-Jones
Subject: RE: CATA Bus Rapid Transit Charrette program

Thanks, Kristi!

I am watching it now on my desktop. Rob did an excellent job!!

Laurie "Lolo" Robison

Director of Marketing
Capital Area Transportation Authority
4615 Tranter Street
Lansing, MI 48910
(517) 394-1100, Ext. 259
lrobison@cata.org



CATA Mission Statement

CATA provides a variety of quality transportation services that are safe, timely and cost-efficient, responding creatively to the diverse mobility needs of the region, and delivered by dedicated employees in a professional manner.

From: Kristi Schaeding [<mailto:schaeding@meridian.mi.us>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 1:35 PM
To: Laurie Robison
Cc: Deborah Guthrie; Robert Gingerich-Jones
Subject: CATA Bus Rapid Transit Charrette program

Good Afternoon Laurie,

The CATA Bus Rapid Transit Charrette program began airing today and will end airing on Wednesday, April 30th. This episode replays on HOMTV at 4:00 pm on Saturday and 6:30 pm on Sunday. The replay times on CAMTV are 7:00 am and 8:00 pm daily.

Watch the CATA Bus Rapid Transit Charrette video on HOMTV, Comcast Channel 21 locally in Okemos, Haslett, and East Lansing. Watch the CATA Bus Rapid Transit Charrette videos on CAMTV, Comcast Channel 30 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99 in 17 communities across the region.

Watch on demand by visiting the HOMTV [Website](#). Become a fan of HOMTV on [Facebook](#) and follow HOMTV on [Twitter](#).

And share it with your friends!

“Victor Dover and his team are back in East Lansing for CATA's Bus Rapid Transit concept. Victor's presentation lays the foundation for teams of community members to brainstorm their ideas and suggestions.”

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to make the videos. Thank you and have a wonderful day!

Kristi Schaeding

Administrative Assistant II, Meridian Township

HOMTV and CAMTV

Schaeding@meridian.mi.us

517-853-4384

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MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

April 23, 2014

Deborah Guthrie
HOMTV
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Ms. Guthrie:

It is with great pleasure that I thank you for your sponsorship and contribution of media coverage (\$1,885 value) for the 20th annual Race for the Place 5K. Your contribution helps in our continued fight against relationship violence and stalking. Funds raised through our event will ensure that our program is able to continue to provide free and confidential support services for those experiencing relationship violence and/or stalking in the MSU and Greater Lansing area.

There are many ways in which your support of Race for the Place helps our program to succeed. The funds raised through this event allow us to offer many services, such as emergency shelter; support groups; individual counseling; advocacy support for victims/survivors in obtaining new housing, connecting with legal resources, safety planning, and meeting other essential needs; financial assistance, such as paying fees to get a Personal Protection Order served; transportation for clients to school, work or other appointments; consultation for family members, friends and colleagues of those affected by violence; and many other much needed services. Without your support we would not be able to provide such comprehensive services to those in need!



**Division of Student
Affairs and Services**

MSU Safe Place

219 Wilson Road, Room G-60
East Lansing, MI 48825

517-355-1100

Fax: 517-432-6193

www.safeplace.msu.edu

noabuse@msu.edu

Despite the ominous forecast, we had a beautiful day and great event with approximately 600 walkers and runners who participated in the 2014 Race for the Place 5K. Additionally, as in previous years, Sparty and MSU varsity athletes came out to support this family friendly event, offering medals and support to the 60 children who participated in the 100-yard dash and one mile fun run events.

We are very grateful for your continued support! We look forward to working with you again for next year's Race for the Place!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Holly Rosen".

Holly Rosen
MSU Safe Place
Director

Kristi Schaeding

From: Deborah Guthrie
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 4:48 PM
To: Kristi Schaeding
Subject: FW: Thanks!

From: Robin Gee [<mailto:Robin.Gee@SMGOV.NET>]

Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 2:01 PM

To: Deborah Guthrie

Subject: Thanks!

Dear Deborah,

Many thanks for coming out to speak at our SCAN NATOA Conference last week. People were really inspired by the session, include my staff and myself! So glad that we got to spend time together and I learned so much from you!

The car smelled like cronuts the next day, but sadly, I had none to eat! Hope you had a good vacation over the weekend too!

Let's stay in touch and continue to learn from each other!

Thanks,
Robin

Robin Gee

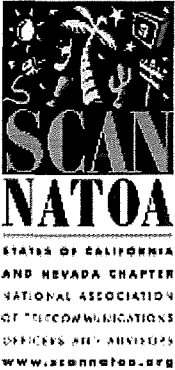
Cable TV and Public Information Manager

City of Santa Monica

Studio 16 | 1654 19th Street | Santa Monica, CA 90404

310.458.8590 | robin.gee@smgov.net

[City of Santa Monica](#) | [CityTV](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Youtube](#) | [Twitter](#)



June 24, 2014

Deborah Guthrie
Communications Director/Programming
Meridian Charter Township
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Deborah,

Thank you for your participation as a presenter at the recent SCAN NATOA Spring Conference in sunny Santa Monica, CA. The feedback has been very positive about "Passport to Tomorrow – SCAN 2014" and the usefulness of the information presented. We know that the success of the conference lies in the participation of our speakers and moderators.

Thank you for your contribution towards making the conference so beneficial to the attendees. On behalf of the States of California and Nevada (SCAN) Chapter of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA), we appreciate your taking time out of your busy schedule to share your experiences and expertise with your colleagues.

SCAN NATOA and the City of Santa Monica were pleased to be able to present such a comprehensive mini-conference and video awards luncheon.

Thanks again for your support and cooperation. It was a stimulating day of learning and an exciting experience for all our attendees!

Sincerely,

MICHAEL D. SMITH
Conference Co-Chair
SCAN NATOA
Cable & Community Relations Manager
City of Torrance

ROBIN GEE
Conference Co-Chair
SCAN NATOA
Cable TV & Public Info Mgr.
CityTV of Santa Monica

Individual Video Provider Customer Intakes

Complaint Number 2014-007

Date 4/17/2014

Name Cindy Detweiler

Street Address 81 Newman Road

City / Zip Okemos 48864-

Work Phone **Ext**

Cell Phone

Home Phone (517) 349-5109

Email rcdtwlr@yahoo.com

Best Time to Call

Best Time to Service

Service Provider Comcast

Reason for Calling Complaint

- Unburied Cable** **Waiting for Service** **Missed Service Call** **Cable Box**
Bad Reception **Cable Out** **Cannot Phone** **Other**
Bad Treatment **Bad Information** **No Response to Request**

Problem Description On April 17, 2014, Ms. Detweiler contacted Kristi Schaeding via phone regarding an on-going Comcast issue. Ms. Detweiler has been a subscriber with Comcast since January and has an ongoing issue with her billing statement.

In January, she called Comcast requesting her bill to be less. The representatives said they would lower the bill but not credit her for that month and the February bill would be lower. The February bill arrived and it was not a reduced rate and she had a past due balance. She called Comcast representatives and they transferred her around to several people and said the March bill would be corrected with a reduced rate. The March bill arrived and it was not a reduced rate and she had a past due balance. She called Comcast again and received the same run around. Ms. Detweiler received her April bill and there was no correction and she has a past due balance again. She called Comcast and asked for a supervisor and was disconnected. She said every month when she calls Comcast, she is transferred to several representatives who do not speak English very well and there is a huge language barrier with no resolution.

Ms. Detweiler has spent hours on this on-going bill issue and would like it resolved as soon as possible.

Problem Before? Yes **Ongoing** **MPSC Information** **MakeCableBetter.org**
Assigned Staff Kristi Schaeding **Given** **Information Given**

Staff Response On April 17, 2014, Kristi Schaeding sent Ms. Detweiler's information to Senior Manager, Government Affairs John Gardner at Comcast via email.

Resolution On April 17, 2014, Gardner replied via email that he will have their customer care specialist reach out to her.

Individual Video Provider Customer Intakes

Complaint Number 2014-008

Date 5/6/2014

Name Richard Thom

Street Address

City / Zip

Work Phone **Ext**

Cell Phone 5175057220

Home Phone

Email tdoctor1314@comcast.net

Best Time to Call

Best Time to Service

Service Provider Comcast

Reason for Calling Complaint

- Unburied Cable** **Waiting for Service** **Missed Service Call** **Cable Box**
Bad Reception **Cable Out** **Cannot Phone** **Other**
Bad Treatment **Bad Information** **No Response to Request**

Problem Description On May 6, 2014 Communications Director Deborah Guthrie received an email from Cable Communications Commissioner Tunga Kiyak who received a Comcast complaint from Mr. Richard Thom. According to Mr. Kiyak's conversation with him:
"He recently got married and moved into his wife's house. Since his wife already had Internet access in her house (not Comcast), Rick called Comcast to cancel the service in his old residence, without realizing that he would lose access to his Comcast email address as well. He claims the Representative on the phone did not caution him, but perhaps he wasn't listening; I don't know. But, as a result, he lost complete access to his email without having the opportunity to download his contact list. Since he is a tennis instructor, clients typically contact him on his Comcast email to schedule and/or cancel classes, so it means more to him than just social interactions.

He says he has talked to three different Comcast Representatives and the only solution they had presented is to sell him a subscription to Comcast services at his wife's house. He is willing to pay for another month's service just to get the contact list off the email, but they've told him he will have to lease a Cable Modem and have a Comcast technician come to his wife's home and install it before the service can be activated. Since it's not his house and there is already service in the house, he does not feel that is appropriate. There has to be a way for him to get temporary access to his account without having to do a service call and/or cable modem installation at the house.

I'm sure this is not the first time Comcast has run into this problem, and I'm sure there is a process to resolve situations like this. But it seems that the Representatives he ended talking to were not aware of that process, or were perhaps hoping to sign him back up as a customer.

Could someone possibly call him up and inform him of any choices that he may have which does not involve him imposing a Comcast subscription and service call on his wife? Perhaps a courtesy 48 hour access to his email or a monthly subscription that does not involve an at-home service call?"

Problem Before? Yes **Ongoing** **MPSC Information** **MakeCableBetter.org**
Assigned Staff Communications Director Deborah Guthrie **Given** **Information Given**

Staff Response On May 6, 2014, Communications Director Deborah Guthrie sent Mr. Thom's information to Senior Manager, Government Affairs John Gardner at Comcast via email.

Individual Video Provider Customer Intakes

Complaint Number 2014-009

Date 5/14/2014

Name Kay Trosko

Street Address 1630 Sylvan Glen Road

City / Zip Okemos 48864-

Work Phone **Ext**

Cell Phone

Home Phone (517) 349-0449

Email

Best Time to Call

Best Time to Service

Service Provider Comcast

Reason for Calling Complaint

Unburied Cable **Waiting for Service** **Missed Service Call** **Cable Box**

Bad Reception **Cable Out** **Cannot Phone** **Other**

Bad Treatment **Bad Information** **No Response to Request**

Problem Description On May 14, 2014, Meridian Township Manager's Executive Assistant Carol Hasse received a call from Ms. Kay Trosko who reported that she has a Comcast line from her neighbor's house lying on her property. She said she thought it may be from this past winter. Ms. Trosko stated that she reported the issue to Comcast multiple times and the line is still on her property.

Problem Before? Yes **Ongoing** **MPSC Information** **MakeCableBetter.org**

Assigned Staff Communications Director Deborah Guthrie **Given** **Information Given**

Staff Response On May 14, 2014, Communications Director Deborah Guthrie called Ms. Trosko and contacted Senior Manager, Government Affairs John Gardner at Comcast via email and voice mail.

Resolution On May 14, 2014, Gardner replied via email that he will have someone check into this.

Individual Video Provider Customer Intakes

Complaint Number 2014-010

Date 5/28/2014

Name Stacey Porritt

Street Address 9890 Coleman Road

City / Zip Haslett 48840-

Work Phone **Ext**

Cell Phone 5178967798

Home Phone

Email staceyporritt@hotmail.com

Best Time to Call

Best Time to Service

Service Provider Comcast

Reason for Calling Complaint

Unburied Cable **Waiting for Service** **Missed Service Call** **Cable Box**
Bad Reception **Cable Out** **Cannot Phone** **Other**
Bad Treatment **Bad Information** **No Response to Request**

Problem Description On May 28th, 2014, Communications Director Deborah Guthrie received an email from Ms. Porritt regarding a Comcast complaint. She explained that her Comcast service was turned off for no reason and she is furious because this was a mess up on the part of Comcast. They are claiming they don't have her payment, but she has a check with a confirmation number that they have not put through their system yet. They left her on hold for 30 minutes and then sent her to a voicemail so she left a recording and that was only the tip of the iceberg. Ms. Porritt would like someone to resolve her issue and contact her immediately.

Problem Before? No **Ongoing** **MPSC Information** **MakeCableBetter.org**
Assigned Staff Communications Director Deborah Guthrie **Given** **Information Given**

Staff Response On May 28, 2014, Communications Director Deborah Guthrie sent Ms. Porritt's information to Senior Manager, Government Affairs John Gardner at Comcast via email.

Resolution On May 28, 2014, Gardner replied via email that he will have their customer care specialist reach out to her.

Individual Video Provider Customer Intakes

Complaint Number 2014-011

Date 6/12/2014

Name Sue Bickert

Street Address 2291 Hamilton Road

City / Zip Okemos 48864-

Work Phone **Ext**

Cell Phone

Home Phone (517) 349-5163

Email bickerts@msu.edu

Best Time to Call

Best Time to Service

Service Provider Comcast

Reason for Calling Complaint

Unburied Cable **Waiting for Service** **Missed Service Call** **Cable Box**

Bad Reception **Cable Out** **Cannot Phone** **Other**

Bad Treatment **Bad Information** **No Response to Request**

Problem Description On June 12, 2014, Communications Director Deborah Guthrie received a complaint via phone from Ms. Sue Bickert. She stated that she is a disabled senior and having trouble with Comcast. She stated that they are a terrible company and that they should not be in service. She has had no internet since 3:00 pm yesterday. Comcast said they would send a new modem in a week. Ms. Bickert said she raised a fit about having to set it up herself and that someone was coming to help her set up a new modem at 4:00 pm today. She stated she thought that was absurd. She spent 8 hours with them on the phone with people she could not communicate with because she could not understand their heavy accents. She is upset she was routed to Columbia to speak with someone. She was disconnected approximately 8 times.

Ms. Bickert also stated that Comcast has too much power and are going to control the world and that someone needs to stop them. She is filing comments with the FCC Chairman. She also stated that we need more broadband and she is going to file those comments with the FCC as well.

Guthrie explained to Ms Bickert that she would submit her comments to the MPSC and to Comcast and that if she had any ongoing issues she could contact me. She also stated she would email her any links to the FCC for filing comments once her modem is replaced and working.

Problem Before? Yes **Ongoing** **MPSC Information** **MakeCableBetter.org**

Assigned Staff Communications Director Deborah Guthrie **Given** **Information Given**

Staff Response On June 12, 2014, Communications Director Deborah Guthrie sent Ms. Bickert's information to Senior Manager, Government Affairs John Gardner at Comcast via email.

Resolution On June 16, 2014, Guthrie received another phone call from Ms. Bickert stating they were scheduled to come to her house on Friday, June 20th and then cancelled. On June 16, 2014, Gardner replied via email that he will have their customer care specialist reach out to her. Later the same afternoon, Gardner replied via email that their Tech Manager spoke with Ms. Bickert and she is all set.

Individual Video Provider Customer Intakes

Complaint Number 2014-012

Date 6/16/2014

Name Bruce Timmons

Street Address

City / Zip Meridian Twp.

Work Phone **Ext**

Cell Phone

Home Phone

Email

Best Time to Call

Best Time to Service

Service Provider Comcast

Reason for Calling Inquiry

Unburied Cable **Waiting for Service** **Missed Service Call** **Cable Box**

Bad Reception **Cable Out** **Cannot Phone** **Other**

Bad Treatment **Bad Information** **No Response to Request**

Problem Description On June 12, 2014, Communications Director Deborah Guthrie received a inquiry via phone from a Mr. Bruce Timmons regarding cable services in Meridian Township. He wanted to know how Meridian Township handles new entrants into the township and oversees compliance if at all. She explained to Mr. Timmons that Meridian Township has a very good relationship with Comcast and that part of her position is to oversee ongoing cable issues between the provider and the cable company and to handle compliance. Guthrie also explained to him that she reports all inquiries and complaints to the MPSC. Mr. Timmons stated that his friends were having issues with AT&T U-verse. She gave him her contact information for him to give to his friends and contact her directly regarding any issues they have with AT&T U-verse. He was very grateful for the information.

Problem Before? No **Ongoing** **MPSC Information** **MakeCableBetter.org**

Assigned Staff Communications Director Deborah Guthrie **Given** **Information Given**

Staff Response

Resolution

Individual Video Provider Customer Intakes

Complaint Number 2014-013

Date 6/23/2014

Name Michelle Kuri

Street Address 6403 Woodcliffe Lane

City / Zip East Lansing 48823-

Work Phone **Ext**

Cell Phone

Home Phone (517) 339-6639

Email

Best Time to Call

Best Time to Service

Service Provider Comcast

Reason for Calling Complaint

Unburied Cable **Waiting for Service** **Missed Service Call** **Cable Box**

Bad Reception **Cable Out** **Cannot Phone** **Other**

Bad Treatment **Bad Information** **No Response to Request**

Problem Description On June 23, 2014, Ms. Kuri contacted Kristi Schaeding via phone regarding an on-going Comcast issue. She stated her cable and internet service were shut off by Comcast because they claim she did not pay her bill. Ms. Kuri said she did pay her bill on the Comcast website and they said they did not receive it.

She said she has been on the phone with Comcast all morning, leaving messages and is very frustrated. She said she needs to talk to a live person to clear this up. She also emailed the weekend help at Comcast and has not heard back from anyone as well.

Ms. Kuri said she would like her call returned from a Comcast representative ASAP.

Problem Before? Yes **Ongoing** **MPSC Information** **MakeCableBetter.org**

Assigned Staff Kristi Schaeding **Given** **Information Given**

Staff Response On June 23, 2014, Ms. Schaeding sent Ms. Kuri's information to Senior Manager, Government Affairs John Gardner at Comcast via email.

Resolution On June 23, 2014, Gardner replied via email that he will have their customer care specialist reach out to her.

Individual Video Provider Customer Intakes

Complaint Number 2014-014

Date 6/24/2014

Name Wendy Schiller-Nichols

Street Address 6331 Island Lake Drive

City / Zip East Lansing 48823-

Work Phone **Ext**

Cell Phone 5172566961

Home Phone

Email wsnichols@nicholslaw.net

Best Time to Call

Best Time to Service

Service Provider Comcast

Reason for Calling Complaint

Unburied Cable **Waiting for Service** **Missed Service Call** **Cable Box**

Bad Reception **Cable Out** **Cannot Phone** **Other**

Bad Treatment **Bad Information** **No Response to Request**

Problem Description Received on the Meridian Township Website Resident Inquiry Page on June 24, 2014 from Ms. Schiller-Nichols: I have tree branches that are growing into the wires that stretch behind my house. Consumers came out and said they are not their electrical lines, and that they are cable or telephone wires. I have called Comcast (cable) and they said to call you because they do not cut trees away from their wires. Please help me resolve this as the wires are above our in-ground pool, and obviously do not want wires falling into the pool as we swim.

Problem Before? Yes **Ongoing** **MPSC Information** **MakeCableBetter.org**

Assigned Staff Communications Director Deborah Guthrie **Given** **Information Given**

Staff Response On June 24, 2014, Communications Director Deborah Guthrie sent Ms. Schiller-Nichols information to Senior Manager, Government Affairs John Gardner at Comcast via email.

Resolution On June 26, 2014, Gardner replied via email: Our construction coordinator visited the site and found the limbs were not endangering our lines. He left a message for the resident, but has not heard back from her at this time.

Individual Video Provider Customer Intakes

Complaint Number 2014-015

Date 7/7/2014

Name Staci Wodolan

Street Address 5660 Mountain Road

City / Zip Brighton 48116-

Work Phone **Ext**

Cell Phone 5174043772

Home Phone

Email

Best Time to Call

Best Time to Service

Service Provider Comcast

Reason for Calling Complaint

Unburied Cable **Waiting for Service** **Missed Service Call** **Cable Box**

Bad Reception **Cable Out** **Cannot Phone** **Other**

Bad Treatment **Bad Information** **No Response to Request**

Problem Description On July 7, 2014, Communications Director Deborah Guthrie received a Comcast complaint via email from Ms. Wodolan. Her email reads as follows: We lost our internet on June 16th, a Technician came out on June 19th and ran a new line. I had to call several times and someone finally came out on July 3rd to take care of the line. From the moment they got there, my internet (that was working) stopped and we have not gotten it back. I have been told several times that it would be escalated to top priority. On July 4th we were told someone would be out at 10 am and no technician arrived. Then Comcast rescheduled for July 5th at 10 am, and they rescheduled again for the 6th and then I was told it would be sometime today. I have still not received a call. That is the long and short of my complaint and I have no internet or phone.

Problem Before? Yes **Ongoing** **MPSC Information** **MakeCableBetter.org**

Assigned Staff Communications Director Deborah Guthrie **Given** **Information Given**

Staff Response On July 7, 2014, Communications Director Deborah Guthrie sent Ms. Wodolan's information to Senior Manager, Government Affairs John Gardner at Comcast via email.

Resolution On July 7, 2014, Gardner replied via email: Thank you Deborah. Our customer care specialists will reach out to Ms. Wodolan.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

**COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR
REPORT**

Kristi Schaeding

From: Deborah Guthrie
Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 11:59 AM
To: Kristi Schaeding
Subject: FW: NATOA Board of Directors

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Deborah Guthrie
Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 11:58 AM
To: Alan McCarrick (alan@cityofeastlansing.com); Alysia Caringi; Bill Irving; Carey Hammel; Chris Nielsen (cnielsen@ci.livonia.mi.us); Cindy Stewart; Dave Albery; Dave Scott; Deborah Guthrie; Diane Griffiths (dgriffiths@orionontv.org); Elaine McLain; Eric Angott; Evelyn Goudreau; G. McDonald (gmcdonald@a2gov.org); Greg Kowalski (gkowalski@bloomfieldtwp.org); Hap Haasch; Ian Locke; Jan Howard (jan@mac3tv.com); Janet Christian (jchristi@twp.waterford.mi.us); Jim Gillis (gillisj@macomb-mi.gov); John Pestle (jwpestle@varnumlaw.com); Jon Kreucher (jdk@h2law.com); Jon Kreucher (jkreucher@howardandhoward.com); Kermit Potter (kpotter@warmemorial.org); Lark Samouelian (lsamouelian@cityofwarren.org); Linda Badamo; Mike DiFazio; Mike Fisher; Mike Watza (mike.watza@kitch.com); Nathan Rockwell (nrockwell@ci.livonia.mi.us); Neil Lehto; R. Paul Dingeman; Tim Lundgren (tjlundgren@varnumlaw.com); Tom Norton
Cc: Alysha Schlundt-Bodien (ASchlundt-Bodien@a2gov.org); Frank Walsh; Garth Ashpaugh (gashpaugh@ascpas.com) (gashpaugh@ascpas.com)
Subject: NATOA Board of Directors

I want to email you and let you know that I will not be seeking a second term on the NATOA National Board. While I find it beneficial to provide a PEG voice and point of view to the national board; I have had additional commitments that is limiting my time to be able to serve on the board. I will serve out the remainder of my term this year and I will be representing Michigan NATOA with my attendance at the National Conference this September in Minneapolis. I encourage members from our state chapter to apply and serve on the board. Information to apply to serve follows my signature. If you are interested and have questions, please contact me.

Thank you,

Deborah Guthrie
Michigan NATOA Chapter President
NATOA National Board Member
www.mi-natoa.org
www.facebook.com/MichiganNATOA
www.twitter.com/MichiganNATOA

Communications Director, Meridian Township
Executive Producer, HOMTV and CAMTV
www.linkedin.com/in/deborahguthrie
Guthrie@meridian.mi.us
517-853-4680

Deborah Guthrie

To: Natoa Membership 2014
Cc: Tonya Rideout (TRideout@natoa.org)
Subject: eNATOA on elections

I've been asked to give a presentation on election programming. I will not only be talking about our policies but I will also be speaking about how we've evolved into a new era of instant engagement with social media and how those same programming principals apply in an instant environment. I will also speak to how we leverage our social engagement now and into the future, and our successes and failures through it all.

Hopefully you can join this eNATOA session. Thank you. –Deborah Guthrie, MINATOA Chapter President

NATOA Members,

In response to your listserv discussions, we've just added a NEW eNATOA for Monday, August 11th at 2:00 PM Eastern on Election Programming for Local Governments. Don't miss this informative one-hour session answering everything you want to know about election coverage to make your election season successful! A formal announcement will be sent shortly with details and speaker names but registration is now open on the NATOA website or you may click here: <https://www.natoa.org/events/enatoa.html>.

Monday, August 11th, 2:00 PM Eastern
Election Programming for Local Governments

Rules, rules and more rules! Get your questions answered regarding the policies and procedures relating to "equal time" rules, guidelines for broadcast channels vs. PEG channels, candidate "approval" statements and how the rules carry over to social media. Don't miss this timely session packed with the information you need to successfully navigate this election season.

Cost is only \$45 for NATOA members!

We look forward to "seeing" you there.

Current Programs on HOMTV:

Meetings:

Environmental Commission	5-7-14	InnerView: Tribute to Women	5-6-14
Park Commission	4-8-14	Jewels 'N General	5-7-14
Planning Commission	4-28-14	Meridian Magazine	4-28-14
Township Board	4-15-14	Meridian News Now	4-24-14
Zoning Board of Appeals	4-23-14	Open Line: Substance Abuse Recovery	5-1-14

Original Programming:

Beyond the Badge	5-5-14	Senior Living	5-5-14
Coffee Break w/ Clerk Barb Byrum	5-2-14	SF: CATA BRT Charrette	4-21-14
Community Connection	12-23-13	SF: Making Meridian	5-7-14
		SF: Sustaining the Future: Ep. 2	4-10-14
		Women of Meridian	3-31-14

- At the ACM Central States conference Director Deborah Guthrie presented on the CAP Act to preserve PEG funding, provided an action alert update and documentation for PEG fee federal language to allow PEG fees to be used on any community media related expense, not just capital, and presented on better blogging including free websites access channel producers can utilize for their programs.
- The Meridian Township Board and Cable Communications Commission approved a resolution of support calling on the United States Congress to amend section 542 of Title 47 for the U.S. Code to allow states and their municipalities to determine the best use of PEG channel support and to prohibit charges for the carriage of PEG channels. The resolutions of support are being sent to Congressional leaders.
- Comcast will be spinning off its Michigan franchises to a new company managed by Charter – a change that will increase media concentration in Michigan, and make the preservation of independent voices even more important. The apparent transfer, if allowed to proceed, of all or most of Comcast's Michigan subscribers into the new Comcast/Charter Corporation (SpinCo), or Charter, is likely to have some substantial impacts on current and future franchises. Staff is studying this proposal.
- Six HOMTV interns became new alumni members after completing their first semester in the internship program. Staff conducted 43 interviews for the HOMTV Internship Program and three interviews for the Social Media Intern positions.
- Staff fulfilled a FOIA request by dubbing 21 episodes of Meridian Live Township Board and Planning Commission meetings. The process took a total of 31 hours and 16 minutes to complete and resulted in 51 discs being created and labeled.
- The video documenting the second CATA Bus Rapid Transit Charrette event from March of this year began broadcasting on April 21st. The video documents the presentation that was given based on community input from the first meeting, including several design concepts to incorporate the BRT into the corridor. The video can be seen on CAMTV and HOMTV, and streamed online at homtv.net.
- The second episode of the "Sustaining the Future" series began broadcasting in early April. The first episode explored the definition of sustainability, and the second episode builds upon that ground work by examining methods by which both individuals and businesses can become more energy efficient. Future episodes will focus on transportation and pollution, as well as food production and renewable energy. The program series is one part of the HUD grant involving the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and Meridian Township. The series can be seen on CAMTV and HOMTV, and streamed online at homtv.net.

- Staff attended the planning session for the Meridian Multi-Cultural Festival on the 7th and 28th to help create promotional materials to hand out to potential vendors. Staff attended the Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau meeting in East Lansing on promoting your area to attract conferences and sporting events.

Facebook Page summary through 4-30-14:

	PEOPLE LIKE THIS	HIGHEST REACH
ALL ACCESS SPORTS	59	8
BEYOND THE BADGE	90	230
CAMTV	187	15
COFFEE BREAK	88	581
DOWNTOWN OKEMOS	367	417
FRIENDS OF OKEMOS LIBRARY	117	3
GREEN MERIDIAN	190	51
HOMTV	871	1772
INNERVIEW	59	40
JEWELS N' GENERAL	141	186
MERIDIAN MAGAZINE	95	26
MERIDIAN NEWS NOW	103	142
MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER	125	75
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	1009	2507
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT	375	302
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION	353	295
OPEN LINE	46	35
SENIOR LIVING	136	114
WOMEN OF MERIDIAN	74	3

SENT/FINISHED PRESS RELEASES:

- May Special Election Information (4/1/14)
- Township-Wide Brush Pick-Up Program (4/1/14)
- Spring Recycling Event (4/7/14)
- Earth Week Clean-Up Event (4/7/14)
- Township-Wide Brush Pick-Up Program (4/7/14)
- Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt (4/8/14)
- Communications Department Media Sponsors for MSU Race for the Place (4/9/14)
- Spring Recycling Event (4/14/14)
- Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt (4/14/14)
- Earth Week Clean-Up Event (4/14/14)
- Township-Wide Brush Pick-Up Program (4/14/14)
- Environmental Stewardship Award Winners (4/14/14)
- Celebrate Downtown Okemos Event – Call for Sponsors (4/14/14)
- Roundabout Sculpture Dedication (4/21/14)
- Spring Recycling Event (4/21/14)

Celebrate Downtown Okemos 5K Race Info (4/21/14)
May Special Election Approaches (4/21/14)
Spring Farmers' Market (4/21/14)
Fire Department Fundraiser (4/23/14)
BBQ Pit Permit Online Application (4/23/14)
Specifications Clarified for Ice Storm Pick-Up (4/23/14)
Spring Farmers' Market (4/28/14)
Fire Department Fundraiser (4/28/14)
May Special Election Approaches (4/28/14)

For the period ending April 30, 2014:

- Communications Department created and distributed **24 new** press releases.
- HOMTV completed **2 of 2** Cable Complaints/Cable Inquiries (not including presentations).
- HOMTV interns have contributed approximately **1,020** hours during the month of April.
- HOMTV Social Media interns contributed approximately **63** hours during the month of April.
- HOMTV completed **57** dub/copy orders.
- HOMTV received **13 new** internship applications and resumes.
- HOMTV completed/changed **5** Bulletin Board announcement requests.
- HOMTV produced and aired **36 new** original programs.
- HOMTV aired **8 new** official township meetings.
- HOMTV produced and aired **9 new** promotions.
- CAMTV aired **13** syndicated programs.

Current Programs on HOMTV:

Meetings:

Environmental Commission	5-7-14
Park Commission	5-20-14
Planning Commission	5-19-14
Township Board	6-3-14
Zoning Board of Appeals	5-28-14

InnerView: Celebrate Downtown Okemos	5-28-14
Jewels 'N General	6-6-14
Meridian News Now	6-5-14
Open Line: Cancer Awareness	5-15-14
Senior Living	5-5-14
SF: Making Meridian	5-7-14
SF: Meridian Monitor	5-20-14
SF: Sustaining the Future: Ep. 2	4-10-14
Women of Meridian	6-2-14

Original Programming:

Beyond the Badge	5-5-14
Coffee Break w/ LuAnn Maisner	6-4-14

- HOMTV staff welcomed 28 new Rookie Interns in May, the largest intern class that we've ever had. They spent the month of May learning the equipment, techniques, and procedures that they will use throughout the semester. In early June they will begin producing assignments and working as crew for township meetings and HOMTV programs.

Facebook Page summary through 5-31-14:

	PEOPLE LIKE THIS	HIGHEST REACH
HOMTV	896	504
JEWELS N' GENERAL	159	690
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	1050	1734
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT	398	2003
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION	381	829

SENT/FINISHED PRESS RELEASES:

- Temporary Fire Station Location Press Conference (5/7/14)
- Local Firefighter Receives Award (5/16/14)
- 20th Annual Memorial Day Service (5/19/14)
- 2014 Smart Commute Challenge (5/19/14)
- Celebrate Downtown Okemos Event (5/27/14)
- Meridian Fishing Derby (5/27/14)

For the period ending May 31, 2014:

- Communications Department created and distributed **6 new** press releases.
- Completed **3 of 3** Cable Complaints/Cable Inquiries (not including presentations).
- Interns have contributed approximately **1,590.5** hours during the month of May.
- Completed **8** dub/copy orders.
- Received **7 new** internship applications and resumes.
- Completed/changed **6** Bulletin Board announcement requests on HOMTV.
- Produced and aired **31 new** original programs on HOMTV.
- Aired **8 new** official township meetings on HOMTV.
- Produced and aired **5 new** promotions on HOMTV.
- Aired **13** syndicated programs on CAMTV.
- Received/filled **1 new** request for program playback for CAMTV.
- Uploaded **5** HOMTV videos on YouTube

Current Programs on HOMTV:

Meetings:

Environmental Commission	5-7-14	Community Connection	12-23-13
Park Commission	7-8-14	InnerView: July 4 th , Safety	6-30-14
Planning Commission	6-23-14	Jewels 'N General	7-8-14
Township Board	7-1-14	Meridian Magazine	7-7-14
Zoning Board of Appeals	6-11-14	Meridian News Now	7-3-14

Original Programming:

Beyond the Badge	5-5-14	Open Line: Cancer Awareness	5-15-14
Coffee Break w/ Cravings Popcorn	6-24-14	Senior Living	5-5-14
		SF: Sustaining the Future: Ep. 2	4-10-14
		Women of Meridian	7-1-14

- Communications Director Deborah Guthrie was a speaker at SCAN NATOA conference in Santa Monica, California for "Reimagining Your Channel - Television viewing is going through a transformation with time-shifting, second screen and multiple platforms. Keeping your channel relevant and where people are going to for video information is imperative to retaining viewership."
- Staff gave a PowerPoint presentation about Township Branding at the June 17th Township Board meeting.
- HOMTV has begun election coverage for 2014, called "Ballot Meridian 2014," with candidate interviews in the HOMTV studio. These interviews, as well as each candidate's 2-minute statement, will be broadcast in the month of July, with debates coming soon to round out the coverage. HOMTV will be live on Tuesday, August 5th, with coverage of the primary election.
- HOMTV staff and interns helped Okemos to celebrate at the Celebrate Okemos 2014 event on June 14th. HOMTV staff and interns, used equipment borrowed from Leightronix of Holt, worked to broadcast live cut-ins from the event. This was the first time that HOMTV has had the capability of broadcasting live from a remote location outside of the studio facility. HOMTV staff is excited to explore this technology further to enhance our programs.
- Staff organized, set up, and oversaw the Information booth and HOMTV booth at Celebrate Downtown Okemos.

Facebook Page summary through 6-30-14:

	PEOPLE LIKE THIS	HIGHEST REACH
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	1,070	69,339
HOMTV	897	1,139
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT	427	1,115
DOWNTOWN OKEMOS	413	861
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECRATION	380	200

SENT/FINISHED PRESS RELEASES:

Meridian Fishing Derby (6/2/14)
Celebrate Downtown Okemos Event (6/2/14)
Celebrate Downtown Okemos 5K Information (6/2/14)
Township Blood Drive (6/2/14)
2014 Hershey Track & Field Meet (6/2/14)
Culvers Fireworks Fundraiser (6/9/14)
Meridian Township Fireworks Celebration (6/9/14)
Celebrate Downtown Okemos (6/9/14)
Township Blood Drive (6/9/14)
Culvers Fireworks Fundraiser (6/16/14)
August Primary Election Information (6/16/14)

For the period ending June 30, 2014:

- Communications Department created and distributed **11 new** press releases.
- Completed **4 of 4** Cable Complaints/Cable Inquiries (not including presentations).
- Interns have contributed approximately **2,677.5** hours during the month of June.
- Completed **3** dub/copy orders.
- Received **2 new** internship applications and resumes.
- Completed/changed **7** Bulletin Board announcement requests on HOMTV.
- Produced and aired **36 new** original programs on HOMTV.
- Aired **5 new** official township meetings on HOMTV.
- Produced and aired **7 new** promotions on HOMTV.
- Aired **18** syndicated programs on CAMTV.
- Uploaded **17** HOMTV videos on YouTube

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

**TOWNSHIP
REPORT**

MEMORANDUM

To: Township Board

From: 
Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director

Date: April 15, 2014

Re: Resolution of Support Regarding PEG Fees

At the April 2, 2014 Cable Communications Commission (CCC) meeting, Commissioners approved the attached resolution of support regarding PEG fees.

The resolution calls on the United States Congress to amend the federal Cable Act to allow localities to use PEG funding for any PEG purposes, as is permitted by Michigan state cable law. Cable operators argue that existing federal law limits localities to using PEG funding for capital only – facilities and equipment. The resolution also asks Congress to amend the Cable Act as necessary to ensure PEG channels are transmitted without charge to local governments. Some operators in Michigan and elsewhere require localities to pay for the connections required to distribute PEG programming.

The Resolution is similar to a Joint Resolution recently adopted by the California General Assembly. In California, 54 different cities, counties, community groups and PEG Access Centers provided letters of support.

The Cable Commissioners request the Township Board approve a resolution of support for PEG fees. Copies of the signed resolution will be provided to state and federal officials.

**Resolution of Support
Regarding PEG Fees**

RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Municipal Building, in said Township on the 15th day of April 2014, at 6:00 p.m., local time.

PRESENT: _____

ABSENT: _____

The following resolution was offered by _____ and supported by _____.

WHEREAS, Public, educational, and government (PEG) channels are one of the last surviving sources for local television programming across the country and PEG channels play a significant role in televising open and public meetings; and

WHEREAS, PEG channels are a unique and valuable resource for local information and discourse for residents; and

WHEREAS, PEG channels televise local government meetings, including city commission meetings, planning commission meetings, county board of supervisors meetings, and school board meetings, so that citizens are informed about the actions taken by local officials; and

WHEREAS, PEG channels also are utilized to communicate with citizens on municipal events and services and provide advisories and preparation directions to residents for emergency purposes; and

WHEREAS, PEG channels provide a window through which residents can view the diversity of cultures, educational information, recreational activities, and artistic endeavors in their local community; and

WHEREAS, PEG channels reflect the unique identity of the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, It is important to preserve PEG channels and funding for PEG channels and to ensure that PEG channels continue to be available to the entire community to serve residents; and

WHEREAS, As one of the conditions of the Michigan State uniform franchise, the state provided that PEG funding may be used for any purpose including to provide critical operating funding to ensure that PEG facilities are open to the community;

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff
Brett Dreyfus
Julie Brixie
Frank L. Walsh

Supervisor
Clerk
Treasurer
Manager



Milton L. Scales
Ronald J. Styka
John Veenstra
Angela Wilson

Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee

April 30, 2014

The Honorable Sam Singh
State Representative
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Singh,

On April 15, 2013, the Meridian Township Board unanimously approved a resolution of support regarding PEG fees.

A resolution of support is attached calling on the United States Congress to amend Section 542 of Title 47 of the United States Code to allow states and their municipalities to determine the best use of PEG channel support and to prohibit charges for the carriage of PEG channels. Passing the federal law amendment would ensure that PEG funding can be used for any purpose related to public, educational or government use of the cable system, as is permitted by Michigan state law.

The purpose of passing the resolution is to call upon U.S. Congress to amend Section 542 of Title 47 of the U.S. Code to:

- (a) Allow states and their municipalities to determine the best use of PEG channel support
- (b) Restore and protect funding for PEG operations
- (c) Allow states and local governments the flexibility to use PEG funding for legitimate expenses other than capitol expenses
- (d) Ensure PEG channels are transmitted without charge to local governments

This outdated and unnecessary language has played a major role in the massive closure of community television centers across the country, exacerbating a crisis in free speech and technology access for all. As advocates for digital inclusion and community media, we propose this straightforward fix which simply allows local revenues to be used to meet local needs.



We think this is particularly important given the announcement that Comcast will be spinning off its Michigan franchises to a new company managed by Charter – a change that will increase media concentration in Michigan, and make the preservation of independent voices even more important.

We request that you advocate this issue with Congressional leaders to introduce legislation that would amend Section 542 of Title 47.

Thank you,

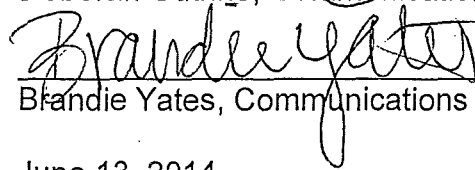
Deborah Guthrie
Communications Director, Meridian Township
Executive Producer, HOMTV and CAMTV

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Township Board

FROM:


Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director
Brandie Yates, Communications Specialist

DATE: June 13, 2014

RE: Township Branding

Community Branding is the art of separating yourself from everyone else and making your community the destination of choice for investment, business opportunities, and as a place to live and visit. In order to brand the township, a set of certain criteria needs to be at the forefront of branding including connecting with the local residents, connecting with the setting (including the weather, geography, and the history), connecting with participatory activities that are unique to the area, and evoking emotion. In order to meet these set of criteria; a number of questions need to be answered including but not limited to:

- What are you trying to accomplish?
- Who are you trying to attract?
- How are you going to craft your storyline?
- How is the plan going to be used through different mediums?
- How is the promise going to be delivered through the plan?
- What type of financial investments will be made?

In order to assess these questions and begin developing a brand strategy, a branding committee consisting of 5-15 people should be created. The typical committee should include members of economic development, chamber of commerce, tourism, township senior staff, downtown representatives, and representatives from the business sector. It is extremely important to get an outside facilitator; someone with no political ties locally and no business ties locally so that the brand will be successful. The three things that kill a brand are local politics, lack of champions, and lack of money.

The Communications Department recommends hiring an outside consultant firm for developing a Meridian Township branding strategy. The Communications Department would create a request for proposal with recommendation to the Township Board for determination of any type of financial commitment for the 2015 budget. If given approval, the Communications Department marketing team would set a plan in place to make a recommendation for the next steps in the process.

MEMORANDUM

To: Township Board

From: Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director

Date: June 24, 2014

Re: Disposal of Surplus Equipment

Upon a 2012 facility upgrade and enhancement approval by the Township Board, the Communications Department contracted engineers to upgrade and re-engineer the production facility. Since the completion of this project, much of the old production equipment that was in disrepair has been recycled; the equipment that is in working order is at least 10 - 20 years or older, and has little to no monetary value. More value would be found in the donation of the equipment to a public, educational, or government (PEG) facility in need of production equipment.

In 2012, similar action took place when Meridian Township donated surplus studio production equipment to Williamston High School. Also, in 2005, Comcast purchased new studio cameras for HOMTV; Meridian Township donated the former studio cameras to Haslett Public Schools who continue to utilize said equipment.

In the event that equipment is not taken by other PEG facilities, it will be recycled or, in the case of batteries or other hazardous materials, disposed of properly.

The following motion is presented for Board consideration:

MOVE THAT THE TOWNSHIP BOARD APPROVE THE DONATION OF SURPLUS STUDIO PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT TO OTHER PUBLIC, EDUCATION, OR GOVERNMENT (PEG) FACILITIES AS LISTED IN THE ATTACHED SURPLUS EQUIPMENT DOCUMENT DATED JUNE 10, 2014.

Attachment

BRAND NAME	MODEL NO.	SERIAL NO.	QTY.	DESCRIPTION	DISPOSAL METHOD
Alesis	3630	CL4294127	1	audio compressor	SELL OR DONATE
Colortran	213-515	N/A	4	6" theater fresnel light	DONATE OR RECYCLE
Comprehensive	VDAP-1	N/A	2	clear plastic parts box and adapters	DONATE OR RECYCLE
DBX	160XT	911600514	1	audio compressor/limiter	SELL OR DONATE
Fujinon	RCV-82SC	N/A	4	screw-on ratio converter for Fujinon lenses	SELL OR DONATE
IDX	i400	T-43265	1	quick charger for NP-style NiCad batteries	RECYCLE
Kramer	VS-8FW	15020723253	1	firewire hub	DONATE OR RECYCLE
N/A	N/A	N/A	6	clamps for lighting equipment	DONATE OR RECYCLE
N/A	N/A	N/A	1	coaxial A/B switch box	RECYCLE
Panasonic	AG-A850	H7A1734DI	1	DVC-PRO editing controller	SELL OR DONATE
Panasonic	AG-A850	J7A1835DI	1	DVC-PRO editing controller	SELL OR DONATE
Panasonic	AJ-D200P	G7TKA0088	1	DVC-PRO camcorder	SELL OR DONATE
Panasonic	AJ-D200P	G7TKA0019	1	DVC-PRO camcorder	SELL OR DONATE
Panasonic	AJ-D200P	G7TKA 0027	1	DVC-PRO camcorder	SELL OR DONATE
Panasonic	AJ-D455P	G3TRA0051	1	DVC-PRO tape deck	SELL OR DONATE
Panasonic	AJ-D455P	J2TRA0047	1	DVC-PRO tape deck	SELL OR DONATE
Panasonic	AJ-D640	I7TRA0151	1	DVC-PRO tape deck	SELL OR DONATE
Panasonic	AJ-D650	C8TRB0254	1	DVC-PRO tape deck	SELL OR DONATE
Panasonic	TR-990C	FS 5520165	1	black and white video monitor	SELL OR DONATE
Smith-Victor	750-SG	N/A	5	"photographic light," halogen	DONATE OR RECYCLE
Sony	DXF-50B	5002015	1	viewfinder for studio camera	SELL OR DONATE
Sony	PVM-14N2U	6007354	1	color video monitor	SELL OR DONATE
Sony	PVM-14N2U	6006918	1	color video monitor	SELL OR DONATE

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

PROGRAMMING

Deborah Guthrie

To: Roxanne Witcher
Cc: Communications Team; Erin Cook
Subject: RE: Harris Nature Foundation 2 annual Turtle Toast

Roxanne,

Thank you for reaching out. We would be delighted to work with you again. I've discussed this with our Producer for our InnerView show series Erin Cook and I will be meeting with the HOMTV Production team tomorrow regarding your request.

Erin will be in contact with you shortly to schedule a taping time in our studio for the InnerView show.

Communications Assistant Andrea Mantakounis will be in contact with you regarding HOMTV being a sponsor for the Turtle Toast.

Please let me know when the event will be this year. I hope to be able to add it to my calendar. It was a joy to attend last year.

I look forward to our team being able to work with yours again.

From: Roxanne Witcher [<mailto:witcherrltw@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, July 03, 2014 1:51 PM
To: Deborah Guthrie
Subject: Harris Nature Foundation 2 annual Turtle Toast

Good Afternoon Deborah,

My name is Roxanne Witcher and I am the Chairperson of the Harris Nature Center Foundation's second annual Turtle Toast event this September. We were so fortunate to partner with HOMtv for last year's event and hope that you might be interested in partnering again this year.

Please let me know if this is a possibility. We would be happy to meet and talk things over. Like last year, we would put the HOMtv logo on all promotional materials, tickets, and a display poster at the event. We are also happy to have a representative from HOMtv attend the event.

I look forward to talking with you more about this soon!

Best,
Roxanne Witcher
Director, HNC Foundation

mobile # 610-316-2090
Email: witcherrltw@gmail.com

Deborah Guthrie

From: Lynn Hildebrandt <lynn.hildebrandt6@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 03, 2014 2:36 PM
To: Deborah Guthrie; Cecelia Kramer
Subject: Thank you!

Hi Deborah,

Thank you for so much of your time today. And for all the great ideas and support!

I've reached out to Betsy Hull for the right name at CADL to spearhead any community outreach. I'll follow up with you as soon as I hear from her (she's likely off for the weekend).

I do think it's a great idea for you to be in touch with the events people at Schuler Books. As I said, any additional component that can be added to a publicity schedule makes a publisher feel more comfortable with the expense of travel. I'm happy to introduce you if you'd like. If you want to reach out on your own, here's their information:

Schuler Books Okemos

Events Coordinator is Emily Galer, galer@schulerbooks.com 349-8840

Schuler Books Eastwood

Events coordinator is Whitney Spotts, whitney@schulerbooks.com 316-7495

Schuler also just bought the oldest independent bookstore in Ann Arbor, which has the potential to bring them even bigger name authors going forward.

I'm very excited about our Community Conversation series and am thrilled to be in communication with you about it. I'm happy to hear suggestions for speakers and to work with you in any way I can.

I will work with Cecelia to build our facebook page....I'm sure we can make it better soon and even better if an intern were to help.

Thanks again - have a great long weekend,
Lynn

Deborah Guthrie

From: Jane Rose <picketfence1903@att.net>
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2014 3:45 PM
To: Deborah Guthrie
Subject: Re: Do you have time for a brief meeting this week?

That's fine. Let me know after the primary what works for you.

Jane Rose.

On 7/21/2014 11:26 AM, Deborah Guthrie wrote:

> Sounds great but I may have to wait until after the Primary elections to meeting. Right now I'm bogged down with three major projects. In the meantime, I can try and do some investigating on programs. Would that be ok to meet the second week of August? Let me know, thanks. Deborah

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Jane Rose [<mailto:picketfence1903@att.net>]

> Sent: Monday, July 21, 2014 11:13 AM

> To: Deborah Guthrie

> Subject: Do you have time for a brief meeting this week?

>

> Hi Deb,

>

> I'd like to get together with you some time to talk about some archival info you might have re: the Friends of Historic Meridian. This is our 40th anniversary year and I'm planning a series of Friends meetings (Sept., Oct., Nov.) to highlight what we've accomplished over the past

> 40 years.

>

> 1. I'd like to purchase a copy of Heather Hartmann's documentary on "Making Meridian" to show at one of the meetings.

> 2. I understand HOM-TV filmed the "Reflections" series several years ago. The series interviewed many of the long-term Meridian residents; many of whom are no longer with us. We have the series on VCR tapes and wondered if they could be copied onto dvd's.

> 3. Any other ideas you might have to share our history with our members.

>

> Let me know when you would have time to get together.

>

> Many thanks,

> Jane Rose, Executive Director

> Meridian Historical Village

> 517-347-7300 (office)

> 517-285-4666 (cell)

>

>

>

> ---

> This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.

> <http://www.avast.com>

>



#BallotMeridian
Programming Schedule Week of July 21 - July 27, 2014



Time	Monday 7/21	Tuesday 7/22	Wednesday 7/23	Thursday 7/24	Friday 7/25	Saturday 7/26	Sunday 7/27			
12:00 AM	Meridian Live - Township Board REPLAY	Meridian Live - Planning Commission REPLAY	Meridian Live - Township Board REPLAY	Meridian Live - Zoning Board of Appeals REPLAY	Meridian Live - Park Commission REPLAY	Meridian Live - Township Board REPLAY	Meridian Live - Planning Commission REPLAY			
12:30 AM										
1:00 AM										
1:30 AM		REPLAY Ballot Meridian Park Millage Round Table Call In Program		Candidate Statements	12th County Commission (D) Deb Nolan			Meridian Live - Environmental Commission Replay	InnerView: Township Park Millage	
2:00 AM										
2:30 AM		69th District State Rep (R) Frank Lambert		REPLAY Ballot Meridian County Proposals Round Table Discussion	REPLAY Debate 69th District State Representative (R)			23rd District State Senate (D) Curtis Hertel Jr.	LIVE Ballot Meridian Park Millage Round Table Call In Program	InnerView: CATA Millage
3:00 AM										
3:30 AM	69th District State Rep (R) George Nastas III	REPLAY Debate 69th District State Representative (R)	REPLAY Ballot Meridian Park Millage Round Table Call In Program	23rd District State Senate (D) Harold Leeman Jr.	69th District State Rep (R) Frank Lambert	12th County Commission (D) Deb Nolan				
4:00 AM										
4:30 AM	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports				
5:00 AM										
5:30 AM	Meridian Magazine News	Meridian Magazine News	Meridian Magazine News	Meridian Magazine News	Meridian Magazine News	Meridian Magazine News	Meridian Magazine News			
6:00 AM	Meridian News Now	Meridian News Now	Meridian News Now	Meridian News Now	Meridian News Now	Meridian News Now	Meridian News Now			
6:30 AM	Jewels 'N General Morning Talk Show	Jewels 'N General Morning Talk Show	Jewels 'N General Morning Talk Show	Jewels 'N General Morning Talk Show	Jewels 'N General Morning Talk Show	Jewels 'N General Morning Talk Show	Jewels 'N General Morning Talk Show			
7:00 AM	Women of Meridian Talk Show	Women of Meridian Talk Show	Women of Meridian Talk Show	Women of Meridian Talk Show	Women of Meridian Talk Show	Women of Meridian Talk Show	Women of Meridian Talk Show			
7:30 AM	Community Connection	Community Connection	Community Connection	Community Connection	Community Connection	Community Connection	Community Connection			
8:00 AM	Debate: State Proposal Replay	REPLAY Ballot Meridian County Proposals Round Table Discussion	REPLAY Debate 69th District State Representative (R)	REPLAY Ballot Meridian Park Millage Round Table Call In Program	REPLAY Debate 23rd District State Senate (D)	REPLAY Ballot Meridian Park Millage Round Table Call In Program	Debate: State Proposal Replay			
8:30 AM										
9:00 AM	Senior Living	Senior Living	Senior Living	Senior Living	Senior Living	Senior Living	Senior Living			
9:30 AM	Jewels 'N General Morning Talk Show	Jewels 'N General Morning Talk Show	Jewels 'N General Morning Talk Show	Jewels 'N General Morning Talk Show	Jewels 'N General Morning Talk Show	Jewels 'N General Morning Talk Show	Jewels 'N General Morning Talk Show			
10:00 AM	23rd District State Senate (D) Curtis Hertel Jr.	69th District State Rep (R) George Nastas III	23rd District State Senate (D) Curtis Hertel Jr.	69th District State Rep (R) George Nastas III	23rd District State Senate (D) Curtis Hertel Jr.	69th District State Rep (R) George Nastas III	23rd District State Senate (D) Curtis Hertel Jr.			
10:30 AM	23rd District State Senate (D) Harold Leeman Jr.	69th District State Rep (R) Frank Lambert	23rd District State Senate (D) Harold Leeman Jr.	69th District State Rep (R) Frank Lambert	23rd District State Senate (D) Harold Leeman Jr.	69th District State Rep (R) Frank Lambert	23rd District State Senate (D) Harold Leeman Jr.			
11:00 AM	Meridian Magazine News	Meridian Magazine News	Meridian Magazine News	Meridian Magazine News	Meridian Magazine News	Meridian Magazine News	Meridian Magazine News			
11:30 AM	Meridian News Now	Meridian News Now	Meridian News Now	Meridian News Now	Meridian News Now	Meridian News Now	Meridian News Now			
12:00 PM	Meridian Live - Park Commission REPLAY	Meridian Live - Planning Commission REPLAY	Meridian Live - Township Board REPLAY	Meridian Live - Zoning Board of Appeals REPLAY	Meridian Live - Park Commission REPLAY	Meridian Live - Township Board REPLAY	Meridian Live - Planning Commission REPLAY			
12:30 PM										
1:00 PM										
1:30 PM		Meridian Live - Environmental Commission REPLAY		Women of Meridian Talk Show	REPLAY Debate 23rd District State Senate (D)					
2:00 PM										
2:30 PM		Women of Meridian Talk Show		Senior Living	Senior Living					
3:00 PM										
3:30 PM	InnerView: HNC Summer Programs	InnerView: HNC Summer Programs	InnerView: HNC Summer Programs	InnerView: HNC Summer Programs	InnerView: HNC Summer Programs	InnerView: HNC Summer Programs	InnerView: HNC Summer Programs			
4:00 PM	Beyond the Badge	Meridian Live - Township Board REPLAY	Beyond the Badge	Beyond the Badge	Beyond the Badge	Beyond the Badge	Beyond the Badge			
4:30 PM	Meridian News Now		Meridian News Now	Meridian News Now	Meridian News Now	Meridian News Now	Meridian News Now			
5:00 PM	Meridian Magazine News		Meridian Magazine News	Meridian Magazine News	Meridian Magazine News	Meridian Magazine News	Meridian Magazine News			
6:00 PM	InnerView: CATA Millage		InnerView: CATA Millage	InnerView: CATA Millage	InnerView: CATA Millage	InnerView: CATA Millage	InnerView: CATA Millage			
6:30 PM	InnerView: Township Park Millage		InnerView: Township Park Millage	InnerView: Township Park Millage	InnerView: Township Park Millage	InnerView: Township Park Millage	InnerView: Township Park Millage			
7:00 PM	LIVE Ballot Meridian Park Millage Round Table Call In Program		Meridian Live - Zoning Board of Appeals REPLAY	LIVE Debate 23rd District State Senate (D)	REPLAY Debate 23rd District State Senate (D)	REPLAY Ballot Meridian Park Millage Round Table Call In Program	REPLAY Debate 23rd District State Senate (D)			
7:30 PM	REPLAY Ballot Meridian County Proposals Round Table Discussion			REPLAY Debate 69th District State Representative (R)	REPLAY Debate 69th District State Representative (R)	REPLAY Ballot Meridian County Proposals Round Table Discussion	REPLAY Debate 69th District State Representative (R)			
8:00 PM	InnerView: CADL Millage	Candidate Statements	12th County Commission (D) Deb Nolan	Candidate Statements	Candidate Statements	InnerView: CADL Millage	InnerView: CADL Millage			
9:00 PM	23rd District State Senate (D) Curtis Hertel Jr.	69th District State Rep (R) Frank Lambert	23rd District State Senate (D) Curtis Hertel Jr.	69th District State Rep (R) Frank Lambert	23rd District State Senate (D) Curtis Hertel Jr.	69th District State Rep (R) Frank Lambert	23rd District State Senate (D) Curtis Hertel Jr.			
9:30 PM	23rd District State Senate (D) Harold Leeman Jr.	69th District State Rep (R) George Nastas III	23rd District State Senate (D) Harold Leeman Jr.	69th District State Rep (R) George Nastas III	23rd District State Senate (D) Harold Leeman Jr.	69th District State Rep (R) George Nastas III	23rd District State Senate (D) Harold Leeman Jr.			
10:00 PM	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports			
10:30 PM	Meridian Magazine News	Meridian Magazine News	Meridian Magazine News	Meridian Magazine News	Meridian Magazine News	Meridian Magazine News	Meridian Magazine News			
11:00 PM	Meridian News Now	Meridian News Now	Meridian News Now	Meridian News Now	Meridian News Now	Meridian News Now	Meridian News Now			

Candidate Interviews	Debates and Election Programs	Township Government Meetings	Regularly Scheduled Programs
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All programs subject to change. LIVE meeting coverage may pre-empt other programs.

Programming Schedule for July, 2014

Capital Area Regional Television also available online WWW.HOMTV.NET

Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2:00 AM	Open for Faith Based Programming	Open for programming					
3:30 AM							
3:00 AM							
4:00 AM	Sustaining the Future: Energy Presentations	Sustaining the Future: Energy Presentations	Sustaining the Future: Energy Presentations	Sustaining the Future: Energy Presentations	Sustaining the Future: Energy Presentations	Sustaining the Future: Energy Presentations	Sustaining the Future: Energy Presentations
5:00 AM							
6:00 AM	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress
6:30 AM	In The Fight	In The Fight	In The Fight	In The Fight	In The Fight	In The Fight	In The Fight
7:00 AM	Special Feature: CATA BRT	Special Feature: CATA BRT	Special Feature: CATA BRT	Special Feature: CATA BRT	Special Feature: CATA BRT	Special Feature: CATA BRT	Special Feature: CATA BRT
7:30 AM							
8:00 AM							
8:30 AM	The Michigan Experience	The Michigan Experience	The Michigan Experience	The Michigan Experience	The Michigan Experience	The Michigan Experience	The Michigan Experience
9:00 AM							
9:30 AM	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion
10:00 AM	A Sit Down with Shanacee	A Sit Down with Shanacee	A Sit Down with Shanacee	A Sit Down with Shanacee	A Sit Down with Shanacee	A Sit Down with Shanacee	A Sit Down with Shanacee
10:30 AM	Cooking with Cathy	Open Line: Call-In Show	Open Line: Call-In Show	Open Line: Call-In Show	Open Line: Call-In Show	Open Line: Call-In Show	Cooking with Cathy
11:00 AM	Cooking with Cathy						Cooking with Cathy
11:30 AM	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers
12:00 PM	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
12:30 PM	Open for Faith Based Programming	Michigan Court Stories	Michigan Court Stories	Michigan Court Stories	Michigan Court Stories	Michigan Court Stories	Michigan Court Stories
1:00 PM		Give a Child a Great Start	Give a Child a Great Start	Give a Child a Great Start	Give a Child a Great Start	Give a Child a Great Start	Give a Child a Great Start
1:30 PM							
2:00 PM	Money Rules	Money Rules	Money Rules	Money Rules	Money Rules	Money Rules	Money Rules
2:30 PM	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress
3:00 PM	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView
3:30 PM	In The Fight	In The Fight	In The Fight	In The Fight	In The Fight	In The Fight	In The Fight
4:00 PM	Inspirational Corner	Inspirational Corner	Inspirational Corner	Inspirational Corner	Inspirational Corner	Inspirational Corner	Inspirational Corner
4:30 PM	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion
5:00 PM	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!
5:30 PM							
6:00 PM	Michigan Court Stories	Michigan Court Stories	Michigan Court Stories	Michigan Court Stories	Michigan Court Stories	Michigan Court Stories	Michigan Court Stories
6:30 PM	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
7:00 PM	Open Line: Call-In Show	Open Line: Call-In Show	Open Line: Call-In Show	Open Line: Call-In Show	Open Line: Call-In Show	Open Line: Call-In Show	Open Line: Call-In Show
7:30 PM							
8:00 PM	Special Feature: CATA BRT	Special Feature: CATA BRT	Special Feature: CATA BRT	Special Feature: CATA BRT	Special Feature: CATA BRT	Special Feature: CATA BRT	Special Feature: CATA BRT
8:30 PM							
9:00 PM		Battle of Ideas					
9:30 PM	How Congress Works	Veteran's Focus	How Congress Works	How Congress Works	How Congress Works	How Congress Works	How Congress Works
10:00 PM							
10:30 PM	Cooking with Cathy	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	Cooking with Cathy
11:00 PM	Cooking with Cathy	Greening Mid-Michigan	Greening Mid-Michigan	Greening Mid-Michigan	Greening Mid-Michigan	Greening Mid-Michigan	Cooking with Cathy
11:30 PM	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers

All programs are subject to change.

HOMTV-Produced Programming	Open for programming	Public Programming	MI Regional Programs	National Programs
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2014 Primary Election LIVE Debate Schedule



Contested Race	Date	LIVE Air Time	Candidate/Guest(s) Confirmed
Live Call-In Debate: 69 th District State Representative (R)	Tuesday, July 22, 2014	8:00 - 9:00 pm	George Nastas III Frank Lambert
Live Call-In Debate: 23rd District State Senate (D)	Thursday, July 24, 2014	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Curtis Hertel Jr. Harold J. Leeman
Live Call-In Debate: 12 th District County Commission (D)	Tuesday, July 29, 2014	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Deb Nolan
Live Call-In Debate: 8th Congressional Debate (R)	Wednesday, July 30	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Mike Bishop Tom McMillin
Live Call-In Debate: 8th Congressional Debate (D)	Thursday, July 31	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Ken Darga Susan Grettenberger Jeffrey Hank Eric Schertzing

Propositions	Dates	LIVE Air Time	Guest(s) Confirmed
Live Call-In Debate: State Proposal	Wednesday, July 16	7:00 - 8:00 pm	John Lindstrom: Gongwer News Rob Schneider: The Citizens Research Council, Tricia Kinley: Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Larry Merrill: Michigan Townships Association
Live Round Table Discussion: Jurisdictional Proposals (CATA/CADL)	Thursday, July 17	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Township Treasurer Julie Brixie- CATA Maureen Hirten-CADL Director Quenda Story-CADL Board Member
Live Round Table Discussion: Township Proposal: Park System	Monday, July 21	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Park Commission Chair Todd Wilson Park Commissioner Mark Stephens Park Commissioner Melanie Jaramillo Park Commissioner Mike McDonald

View the Program Schedule for Dates, Times and Live Streaming at HOMTV.NET

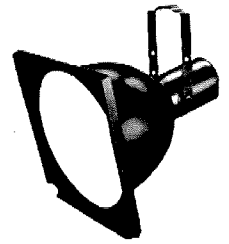


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Call In With Questions During the Programs 517-349-1232

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**VIEWERSHIP/
PROMOTIONS**



Volume 26, Issue 2

Summer 2014

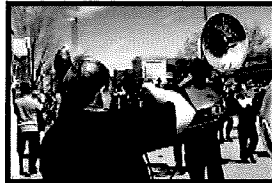
Coming Soon: Live Remote Broadcast Capability



Leightronix, Inc. is paving the way for HOMTV to provide live broadcasts and streaming during community events. They are a recording, broadcasting, and streaming digital media company located in Holt, Michigan.

The Tulip Festival in Holland, in Michigan attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year with parades, tours, Dutch dance performances, and over six million tulips. To allow these people to experience as much of Tulip Time as possible, the City of Holland's broadcast station, Holland Cable TV (HCTV) enlisted Leightronix to help broadcast and live stream the event.

Holland Cable TV (HCTV) deployed multiple crew members with cameras to capture the parade from various vantage points. The multiple camera feeds were routed through a production switcher where the operator chose which shots would be broadcast and streamed for the duration of the parade.



Holland Cable TV (HCTV) staff videotaped the parade at the Tulip Festival.

"This event is so important to our community. We have several hundred thousand people come out. It's just a great event and we love having Leightronix here as a partner of ours," stated Matt VanDyken, Technology Services Coordinator, City of Holland. "We are able to bring our cable signal, using their gear, to people all over the world. We've seen people from across the country and all over the world streaming our event live."

The 6th annual "Celebrate Downtown Okemos" event is scheduled for June 14th in downtown Okemos and HOMTV is planning to work in conjunction with Leightronix to carry the event live.

* "2014 Tulip Time." www.leightronix.com. Web. May 28, 2014. <http://www.leightronix.com/customers/tulip_time.php>.

Editorial: Alum Produces Documentary

By: Heather Hartmann (13)

Ask almost anyone who has never made a movie or film, and they may paint it as something glamorous. Ask me and I will tell you how 95 percent of the time you will want to sit with a pint of ice cream and cry for a solid hour while watching nothing but romantic comedies.



Okay, so that's a bit of an exaggeration, but it really is stressful! Recently, I helped produce a documentary called "The Art of Art." It is a film that looks beyond the final product of art and at the creative process. Following a scrap artist, glassblower, fiber artist, and painter, the film explores their lives and the art of their art. In January, I walked into the TC 411 Documentary Design Production class at Michigan State University through which this film was created, and had no idea what I was in for.

First, I was one of the only journalism majors, the rest of the students were well-educated in filmmaking and the necessary technical skills. My only saving grace was the fact I had interned at HOMTV. Thankfully, I could at least keep up with the jargon!

Second, I had never been a producer of any film. However, with my confidence and ability to lead, I just fell into that role. I began to find artists and pre-screen them; I coordinated and organized the team with shoots, marketing, social media, and more; I planned and executed the premiere at Studio C! Theater in Okemos. Overall, I was everywhere doing almost everything. In the end, I absolutely loved the experience.



Full house at Studio C! Theater.

Having the film and premiere exceed all of my expectations was fantastic! Plus, the staff and interns at HOMTV came out for the Intern Appreciation Night to support me. It was awesome to see them sitting in the audience, cheering me on. Overall, the stress was great, but the reward was even greater.

Congrats to Michigan HOMTV Alumni Winners and Nominees



The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Michigan Chapter recently released their nominations for the 36th Annual Emmys and the following alums received nominations: **Taryn Asher (94)** at Fox 2 in Detroit, **Jason Carr (89)** at Fox 2 in Detroit, **Brett King (07)** at WKAR in East Lansing, **Al Martin (12)** at WKAR in East Lansing, **Hannah Saunders (11)** at WZZM in Grand Rapids, **Chris Sherban (02)** at Fox 2 in Detroit, **Pravin Sitaraman (91)** at WXYZ in Detroit, and **John Pompeo (86)** WDIV in Detroit. The award gala is scheduled for June 14th in Detroit. Good luck to all alums!

The Michigan Association of Broadcasters 2013 Broadcast Excellence Award winners are: **Al Martin (12)** at WKAR in East Lansing, **Tim Schafer (09)** at WLNS in Lansing and **Candace Burns (07)** at WJRT in Flint. The student award winners are: **Alex Barhorst (13)**, **Molly Cassidy (14)**, and **Maddie Fetchiet (12)**. In addition, the Journalism School at MSU recognized **Heather Hartmann (13)** as a winner of the Edward J. Meeman Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Environmental Journalism. Congratulations!

Alumni in the Biz

Alum Creates Behind the Scenes Magic



Jennifer Hutchins (94) is a **Film and Television Producer** in Los Angeles, who's produced more than 200 episodes of hit shows for **A&E, Spike, TLC, Syfy, Discovery, Speed** and **National Geographic Channels**. Her career was fueled in Lansing, where she produced, reported and edited hundreds of news packages airing on CNN and CBS with the mission to make a difference and share a real story.

After relocating to California, Jennifer produced nearly 100 episodes of A&E's hit show "Criss Angel Mindfreak." As **Supervising Producer** she oversaw a huge team of crew and producers who had to think outside the box and work in perfect harmony to execute highly complicated illusions that had never been done before in the history of TV. After producing an implosion stunt, "The Imploders" were picked up for their own series on TLC and she was asked to produce an entire season of building implosions across the nation.

When it comes to ghosts, Jennifer is considered a leading authority after producing "Ghost Hunters International" and "Haunted Collector" on the **SYFY Channel** where her original stories, "Hitler's Ghost in Argentina," "Ghost Child of Peru," and "Haunted Island" premiered with some of the highest ratings on the channel. Jennifer took a break from magic and ghosts and was the **Supervising Producer** for Season 1 of "The Car Show," starring Adam Carolla on the Speed channel. Most recently, Jennifer produced a new series for Spike titled "Criss Angel BeLIEve" a show that takes viewers inside Criss Angel's world like never before - to truly see the method to his magic. The show aired 11 one-hour episodes in the fall of 2013 and had the highest rated premiere to date on Spike.

As a Reporting intern for HOMTV in 1994, Jennifer quickly moved through the ranks of the internship program. *"At HOMTV I learned many of the behind the scenes and on-camera skills that helped launch me as a producer for national television shows and film."*

Alum Leads Production for ESPN



Max Ieuter (12) is a **Project Manager** for **Paragon Marketing Group, LLC** in Chicago. As a team member on the ESPN account, he focuses on marketing the nation's top high school football and basketball prospects. His responsibilities range from researching and coordinating with the highest profile high school athletes and teams, to game-by-game responsibilities in event management with ESPN's High School Showcase games. In his first six months, Max developed and led Paragon's creative production department which produces in-house promotional video

content for big-name sponsors like DICK's Sporting Goods, Gatorade, and Under Armour. His efforts in creative production have bolstered numerous sales to current and future clients for upcoming ESPN Showcase seasons.

As a graduate from Michigan State University with a degree in Sports Journalism, Max also interned for **WXYZ ABC-7 Sports Detroit**. He was part of the coverage team for the first Big Ten Football Championship Game. Following graduation, Max accepted a position at **WILX Channel 10** in Lansing as a **News Producer**, while simultaneously reporting for HOMTV.

"I will never forget the invaluable experiences I had during my time as an intern at HOMTV in 2012," he commented. *"The high-level of professionalism that was demanded of me, each and every day, set the tone for the beginning of my career. It truly was a catalyst in the development of my work ethic and a place where I could truly appreciate the rewarding satisfaction of a job well-done in the midst of developing new skills."*

Alex Barhorst (13) is a **Writer and Media Consultant** at **Lezotte Miller Public Relations Inc.** in Okemos.

Jeff Ceresnie (07) recently left his position as **Vice President of Video Production** at **Citi** in Florida and moved to Thailand for a year to teach English. He also plans to do some filming while there.

Jason Chafin (02) is a **Audio/Video SME** at **Verizon's** mountain regional headquarters in Denver.

Amanda Chodnicki (13) is a **News Intern** at **Fox News** in Detroit.

Shanna Crummel (03) married Ruben Mezo on August 2, 2013. Congratulations!

Ameerah Gillespie (08) is a **Marketing Manager** at **Covisint Corporation** in Detroit.

Lindsey Gordon (12) is a **General Assignment Reporter** at **WCIA Channel 3** in Champaign, Illinois.

Heather Hartmann (13) is an **Intern** at **Peake Media** in Louisville, Kentucky.

Marissa High (12) is an **IO/Assistant Editor** at **Ringside Creative** in Detroit.

Junior Reporting Intern Alexandra Ilitch (14) is engaged to Nickolas Gatt. No official wedding date has been set. Congratulations!

Derek Johnson (05) is a **Stunt Actor** at **KMR Talent Agency** in Van Nuys, California.

Michelle Lu (09) is a **Production Assistant** at **Detroit Public Television** in Detroit.

Natalie Nako (13) is a **Morning Reporter/Producer** at **News Station 9/10** in Cadillac.

Blair Nelson (14) is a **Videographer** at **WLNS Channel 6** in Lansing.

Pamela Osborne (09) is a **News Reporter** at **WPXI Channel 11** in Pittsburg.

Autumn Perry (03) is an **Assistant Director** for **Marketing and Public Relations** at **Bishop International Airport** in Flint.

Jack Rodzik (13) is a **Chapter Support Coordinator** for **Sigma Chi Fraternity Headquarters** in Chicago.

Emily Scarlett (11) is a **Morning Anchor** for **CBS Channel 4 News** in Rock Island, Illinois.

Connor Wilton (14) is a **Videographer** at **WLNS Channel 6** in Lansing.

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2014

HOMTV Offers Candidate Interviews LIVE Call-In Debates State, County & Township Proposal Programs

LIVE INTERVIEW SCHEDULE:

Wednesday, July 16 at 7pm State Proposal
Thursday, July 17 at 7pm County Proposals
Monday, July 21 at 7pm Township Proposal

LIVE CALL-IN DEBATE SCHEDULE:

CALL 517-349-1232 OR TWEET YOUR QUESTION!

Tuesday, July 22 at 8pm 69th Dis. State Representative (R)
Thursday, July 24 at 7pm 23rd Dis. State Senate (D)
Tuesday, July 29 at 7pm 12th Dis. County Commissioner (D)
Wednesday, July 30 at 7pm 8th Dis. Congress (R)
Thursday, July 31 at 7pm 8th Dis. Congress (D)

CALL 517-349-1232

View the Program Schedule for dates and times at HOMTV.NET

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FYI

The following materials are "for your information"
and do not necessarily relate to an agenda item

Plans Announced to Bring 1 Gig Internet Services to Michigan Cities

APRIL 18, 2014 - East Lansing based company LightSpeed Communications, LLC announced plans to build Gigabit Internet services to select Michigan cities. The company is building a new fiber optic network, designed to connect homes to the Internet at 1 Gigabit, or about 100 times faster than currently available Internet service.

LightSpeed plans to introduce Gigabit service to homes in the Lansing area in spring 2014. The first wave of construction to pilot neighborhoods is underway now. Homes located in the pilot areas are qualified to receive service first. To check for availability or to show interest in connecting your neighborhood, please register your address at the company's website www.golightspeed.com.

Price for 1 Gig home service is not yet released, but the Company plans to offer packages competitive with Cable Internet options.

Construction work will be prioritized to neighborhoods based on interest. To be among the first in Michigan to experience Gigabit Internet, register your address today. The company is also working on a map to illustrate planned coverage and construction progress, which it intends to launch early Summer 2014.

Construction updates will be posted to the company's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/golightspeed

1 Gigabit is about 1,000 Megabits. By contrast, cable companies advertise download speeds ranging from 5 to 50 Megabits. Lightspeed is deploying fiber offering both 1 Gigabit and 10 Gigabit connection options.

CONTACT: JASON SCHREIBER 517-492-1300 or jason@milightspeed.com

April 22, 2014

NEW YORK (AP) — AT&T plans a major expansion of super-fast Internet services to cover as many as 100 municipalities in 25 metropolitan areas.

The service, called GigaPower, has a 1 gigabit per second speed that is about 100 times what U.S. consumers typically get with broadband. That means faster video downloads and the ability for more devices to connect to the network without congestion.

AT&T currently has such speeds in Austin, Texas, and has committed to offer the service in Dallas. The company is also in advanced talks to bring GigaPower to two additional markets, Raleigh-Durham and Winston-Salem, N.C.

A rival offering from Google Inc., known as Google Fiber, is available in Kansas City and is coming soon to Austin and Provo, Utah. Smaller companies and public utilities offer or plan such speeds in a handful of other markets throughout the U.S.

AT&T Inc. said Monday that the specific number of markets beyond its initial four will depend on discussions with local officials and assessments of potential demand. The company said it may start building some of the new networks by the end of the year.

None of the new markets are in the Northeast because AT&T doesn't have landline operations there. Verizon serves much of that area and has been offering its own fiber-optics service, FiOS, though its top speed is at half of what AT&T is planning.

Verizon said that although it hasn't seen widespread demand for a 1 gigabit service yet, the rival offerings are indicative of growing demand for super-fast Internet.

Such speeds are common in parts of Asia and Northern Europe, but they are not as prevalent in the U.S., where some rural households are still stuck on extremely slow dial-up services. Internet providers have been reluctant to spend the billions of dollars needed to extend fiber-optic cables into each and every home. The companies have been largely content to use existing, but slower cable TV lines.

Part of the problem is demand: Many applications and tasks that might take advantage of the higher speeds haven't been developed yet. But they won't get developed if the speeds aren't available.

But higher speeds will make a difference as people connect more smartphones and other gadgets to their home networks and expect to watch quality video on them.

Lori Lee, senior executive vice president for AT&T's home solutions business, said that just as consumers might not have imagined a need for smartphones a few years ago, they might not see a need for higher Internet speeds today. Such a need, she said, will become clearer over time.

"We see this as where the world is going," Lee said. "We are about skating where the puck is going and not necessarily where it is today."

AT&T is also targeting small and medium-size businesses with the new offering. Lee cited video conferencing as one application made practical by higher speeds.

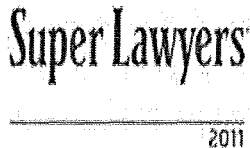
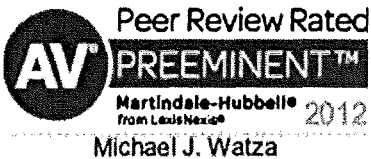
The new metropolitan areas targeted by AT&T are: Atlanta, Augusta, Ga., Charlotte, N.C., Chicago, Cleveland, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Fort Worth, Texas, Greensboro, N.C., Jacksonville, Fla., Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami, Nashville, Tenn., Oakland, Calif., Orlando, Fla., St. Louis, San Antonio, Texas, San Diego, San Francisco and San Jose, Calif.

In many of these markets, only certain cities and towns will get the service. All told, AT&T is targeting about 100 municipalities.

AT&T didn't announce prices. In Austin, the service costs \$70, or \$120 when bundled with television service.

Cable Internet services typically cost less, but deliver slower speeds. And with most cable services, sending data is typically slower than receiving content, making online backups and video sharing impractical or painfully slow. AT&T's service is symmetrical, so uploads and downloads are comparable

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Fax:(313)965-7403

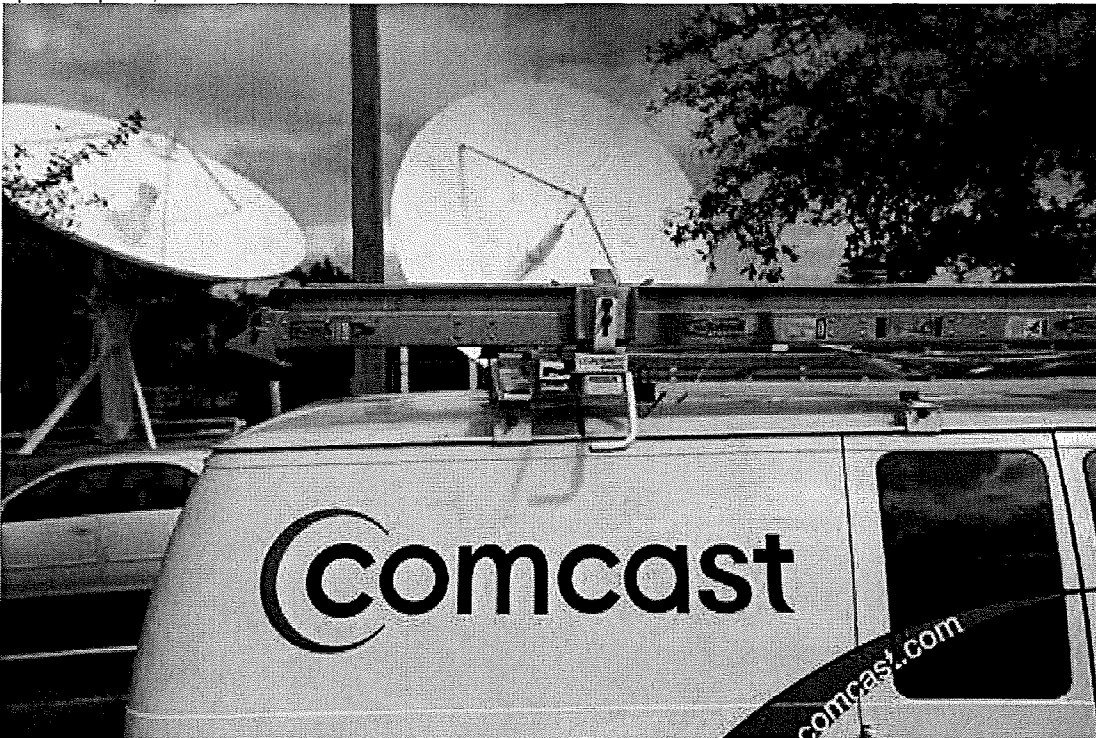


Kristi Schaeding

From: Deborah Guthrie
Sent: Monday, April 28, 2014 11:31 AM
To: Benenson, Walter (benenson@msu.edu); brianseipel@comcast.net; Crowley, Patrick (pcrowley@crowleylegal.com); Kiyak, Tunga (kiyaktun@bus.msu.edu); Lathrop, Andrew (andrewjlathrop@gmail.com); Styka, Ron (ronstyka@gmail.com)
Cc: Kristi Schaeding
Subject: Comcast Charter deal

Comcast, Charter Reach Subscriber Deal Pact Aimed At Helping Comcast Smooth Over Regulatory Concerns on Time Warner Cable Deal

Ben Fox Rubin
Updated April 28, 2014 8:14 a.m. ET



Comcast agrees to divest 3.9 million subscribers in push to secure regulatory approval for its Time Warner Cable acquisition. *Getty Images*

Comcast Corp. and Charter Communications Inc. reached a deal for Comcast to divest 3.9 million subscribers, in a move aimed at helping it smooth over regulatory concerns involving its \$45 billion deal for Time Warner Cable Inc.

As part of the agreement, Comcast will divest about 1.4 million existing Time Warner Cable customers directly to Charter for an estimated \$7.3 billion in cash.

Additionally, Comcast plans to create a new publicly traded company that will serve another 2.5 million existing Comcast customers. Comcast shareholders would own 67% of that new company, and Charter would own 33%. The two cable operators estimated the new company would have an enterprise value of \$14.3 billion,

Related Coverage

- [Cable Connections: an Infographic](#)
- [Comcast Close to Subscriber Deal With Charter \(4/22/14\)](#)
- [Comcast Stock Drop Complicates Time Warner Cable Deal \(4/1/14\)](#)
- [Charter Urges Rejection of Comcast Deal \(3/28/14\)](#)
- [Comcast Details TWC Talks \(3/20/14\)](#)
- [Comcast Acquiring TWC \(2/13/14\)](#)

The agreement also included a deal to swap 1.6 million Time Warner Cable customers and 1.6 million Charter customers in a like-kind exchange, which the companies said will improve their geographic footprints.

The new Charter agreement is contingent on the Comcast-Time Warner merger being completed.

"Today's agreement follows through on our willingness to divest subscribers, while also marking an important step in our merger with Time Warner Cable," Comcast CEO Brian Roberts said in a statement.

To alleviate regulatory concerns, Comcast had said it plans to divest millions of subscribers. The deal with Charter would reduce Comcast's number of managed residential customers to less than 30% of the pay-TV market after all the transactions.

Charter earlier this year lost out on its long-running bid to acquire fellow cable operator Time Warner Cable, after rival Comcast reached a \$45 billion deal for TWC. However, last week The Wall Street Journal reported that Charter appeared to be in line for a consolation prize, with the company and Comcast in advanced talks toward a complex deal where Charter could end up with nearly four million additional subscribers.

The companies said the divestiture deal would make Charter the second-largest cable operator in the U.S., a move that would help advance the growth strategy set out by Charter and its biggest shareholder, [Liberty Media Corp.](#), to consolidate the cable industry. Charter is currently the fourth-largest U.S. cable operator, behind Comcast, Time Warner Cable and Cox Communications Inc.

Charter said Monday that, following the deals, it will have an estimated 5.7 million video customers and manage another 2.5 million through its agreement with the new company. That gives it a total of 8.2 million video customers, or nearly double its current total.

Specifically, Charter will acquire systems in Ohio, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Indiana and Alabama, while divesting systems in California, New England, Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, Texas, Oregon, Washington and Virginia. Meanwhile, the new company will own systems that are near Charter systems in Michigan, Minnesota, Indiana, Alabama, Eastern Tennessee, Kentucky and Wisconsin.

Charter Chief Executive Tom Rutledge will be chairman of the new company.

Separately, Charter reported its first-quarter results Monday morning, with the company posting a narrower loss for the period.

The company reported a loss of \$37 million, or 35 cents a share, compared with a year earlier loss of \$42 million, or 42 cents a share.

Revenue jumped 15% to \$2.2 billion, helped by the July acquisition of Cablevision Systems Corp.'s Bresnan Broadband. Video and Internet revenue grew, though voice revenue declined.

Analysts polled by Thomson Reuters recently expected per-share earnings of 12 cents and revenue of \$2.18 billion.

Charter found success recently in its effort to slow its video-subscriber losses by focusing on speeding up its broadband speeds and adding more high-definition TV channels. The company gained 18,000 customers in the latest period, compared with losing 25,000 a year ago.

Charter also added 136,000 Internet customers in the first quarter, compared with 107,000 a year ago.

Write to Ben Fox Rubin at ben.rubin@wsj.com

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As cable customers get traded, no high marks for service



Mark Hoffman

Charter Communications senior systems technician Chad Wohlt is shown Monday in West Bend.

By *Journal Sentinel* staff

April 29, 2014

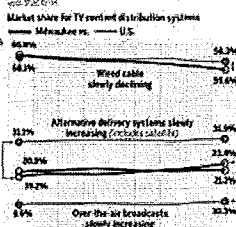
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TV habits shifting

The marketplace of wired and satellite TV systems in Milwaukee has been transformed in the past few years. The number of people getting TV through satellite services has soared, while the use of traditional cable has steadily declined.



If you think anything will change after [Comcast buys Time Warner Cable and sells of subscribers to Charter](#), consider this: All three companies earned low customer satisfaction scores in the latest Consumer Reports National Research Center survey.

"Out of 17 providers of TV service, Charter, Comcast and Time Warner ranked 14th, 15th, and 16th, respectively," David Butler, deputy director of Consumers Union, said in an email. The companies' scores were mediocre on Internet service as well, he said.

A survey by the marketing firm Scarborough taken between August and January showed Time Warner Cable with about 320,000 subscribers in the 10-county southeast Wisconsin area. AT&T U-verse had almost 100,000 and Charter had nearly 73,000.

Charter's bid to buy Time Warner Cable fell short in February, but now Comcast — which won that bidding war with an offer of \$45.2 billion — plans to shed 3.9 million subscribers in an attempt to appease regulators and lawmakers concerned about its massive size.

Of those, 1.4 million nationwide will move to Charter, including all of the estimated 320,000 households that subscribe to Time Warner in the 10-county Milwaukee area. Time Warner is the dominant pay-TV provider in the region.

If the deal goes through, some hassles are likely for current Time Warner Cable subscribers. For example, Barry Orton, a University of Wisconsin-Madison telecommunications professor, said it is likely that those who use "rr.com" email addresses provided by Time Warner eventually would have to switch to "@charter.net" addresses.



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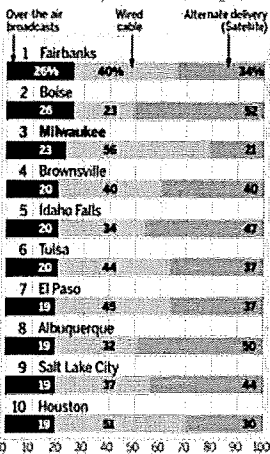
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Cable has competition here

Milwaukee ranks third in the nation for households that shun cable and satellite dish services for free over-the-air TV. Here are the top 10 markets of broadcast TV compared to the other categories.



Click image to enlarge.

"It's a real pain to switch," Orton said. "So they're going to be aware of that. They're probably going to have to keep the 'rr' for some period of time, but I suspect sooner or later they are going to have to transition that."

Time Warner Cable has shifted customers from rr.com addressees to twc.com email addresses even though both brands are owned by the same company. Comcast has required customers of some of the cable companies it has purchased over the years to switch email addresses, though the company created tools to help customers make the transition.

As for which company provides the best prices, comparisons are nearly impossible. You can get different prices if you bundle services such as TV, phone and Internet, or if you have discount codes through your employer or if you live in an area with more competition.

Industry statistics from earlier this year show how tough a market Milwaukee is for all pay-television services, whether they are wired or satellite dish companies.

The Milwaukee television market ranked third in the country in the percentage of households that shun both cable and satellite dish services and instead watch free, over-the-air TV. According to the Television Bureau of Advertising, 23.4% of Milwaukee area households watch free over-the-air TV, ranking it behind Fairbanks, Alaska, (26%) and Boise, Idaho, (25.6%).

Nationwide, just 10.3% of homes are watching free over-the-air television.

The rankings also suggest that local viewers' preferences are shifting away from cable and toward both free-TV and satellite dish services. As of February, the Television Bureau found that 55.6% of the Milwaukee market's households were watching wired cable — down from 60.8% two years earlier.

The rankings don't take into account the percentage of local homes that are watching other kinds of Internet-delivered, subscription-TV services such as Netflix, Amazon Prime and Hulu.

Customers were about evenly dissatisfied with Charter Communications and Time Warner Cable, according to two consumer satisfaction surveys by J.D. Power in 2013. Both companies ranked at or toward the bottom in the North Central Region, which includes Wisconsin.

Paul Gorés, Thomas Content, Joe Taschler, Sharif Durhams and Gitte Laasby of the Journal Sentinel staff contributed to this report.

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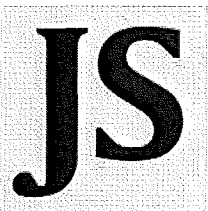


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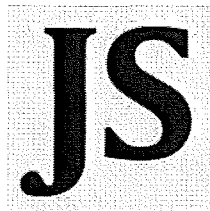
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House Republicans Say Comcast Merger Risks Undue Sway on Channels

By EDWARD WYATT MAY 8, 2014

WASHINGTON — Several House Republicans expressed concern on Thursday that a merger of Comcast and Time Warner Cable would give the new company undue influence over the potential success of cable channels whose programming might compete with Comcast's.

At a four-hour hearing of the House antitrust subcommittee, representatives from a few, mostly Republican states raised questions about Comcast's decision after its takeover of NBCUniversal to drop RFD-TV from its cable service in Colorado and New Mexico. RFD focuses on largely rural interests like agribusiness, Western sports and music, and rural lifestyle issues.

Republican and Democratic representatives also raised concerns about Comcast's post-merger ability to pick winners and losers in the cable and broadband business because of its influence over regional sports networks, several of which it owns, and over Internet video companies whose offerings compete with Comcast's television programming.

In the end, however, several members expressed the view that, although Congress has no direct authority over the merger, they expect that not enough documented antitrust problems exist to block the deal.

Patrick Gottsch, the founder and chairman of RFD, disagreed. He told the committee that the decision cost RFD roughly 470,000 viewers, about 40 percent of its Comcast customers, in markets where the station's viewership ranked in the top 25 percent of all cable networks. Since it was dropped, RFD has not been added to Comcast offerings in any area served by the company, he said.

“Because there is no clear business reason to understand Comcast’s decision, we can only speculate that RFD-TV has become competitive with Comcast’s affiliated programming,” Mr. Gottsch told members of the House Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law.

David L. Cohen, the Comcast executive vice president who has been the company’s chief public advocate since the merger was announced, denied that charge. He said the decision was made by local cable programmers and noted that Comcast served primarily urban areas, even in Western states.

Some 600,000 to 700,000 Comcast customers can still receive the service, Mr. Cohen said, and those who cannot get it on Comcast can switch their cable subscription to one of the satellite companies.

Comcast’s primary defense against claims that it faces no competition in most markets for multichannel video programming is that the satellite providers Dish and DirecTV are available to more than 90 percent of Americans.

Mr. Cohen again emphasized that after the merger no cable subscribers in the United States would have fewer choices for delivery of cable television than before the deal.

Nevertheless, the Comcast-Time Warner Cable merger has attracted a growing array of corporate opponents in recent weeks.

Dave Schaeffer, the chief executive of Cogent Communications, a company that provides infrastructure connecting Internet programmers with local broadband providers, told the House panel that “grave anticompetitive and consumer harms” could result from the merger because of Comcast’s capture of broadband customers.

The merged companies will reach 40 percent to 60 percent of wired broadband subscribers in the United States, Mr. Schaeffer said. It will dominate high-speed Internet service in 19 of the country’s 20 largest markets.

“One entity controlling access to so many of America’s ‘captive eyeballs’ should immediately raise red flags,” he said.

Some members of Congress also questioned the assertion that advertisers could have less access to consumers after the merger, because a larger Comcast could control access to roughly 30 percent of cable customers nationwide.

Allen P. Grunes, a partner at GeyerGorey and a former Justice Department antitrust lawyer, said Comcast and Time Warner do compete in the sale of local

cable advertising, which takes up two to three minutes of every hour of cable programming.

“If the merger is consummated, the merged firm would likely have the power to increase prices in the spot cable advertising market through its control over a large number of subscribers and key market gateways,” Mr. Grunes said.

Representative Louie Gohmert, a Texas Republican, took the hearing in an unexpected direction when he accused Comcast of keeping Glenn Beck, the conservative television and radio host, off its cable network in favor of Al Jazeera America, which “wanted to get their Sharia law view into us.”

Al Jazeera bought Current TV from Al Gore, the former vice president, in 2013. Mr. Gohmert said Mr. Beck was also offering to buy the channel but was thwarted by a conspiracy between Al Jazeera and Comcast.

Mr. Gohmert said Mr. Beck also had sought to buy another failing cable channel that owed money to Comcast; the congressman cited an anonymous email alleging that Comcast was conspiring to keep Mr. Beck off the air until after the 2014 midterm elections.

Mr. Cohen denied the assertions. Under its contract, he said, the channel at issue was not allowed to include news coverage or political commentary. He added that “there is no judgment being made” about carrying Mr. Beck’s program “based upon its political perspective.”

A version of this article appears in print on May 9, 2014, on page B3 of the New York edition with the headline: House Republicans Say Comcast Merger Risks Undue Sway on Channels.

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News

Comcast deal gives it market power on Internet backbone, critic says

A Cogent executive tells lawmakers Comcast is already using its size to extract payments from Netflix

By Grant Gross, IDG News Service
May 08, 2014 03:07 PM ET

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IDG News Service - Comcast's proposed purchase of fellow cable television and broadband provider Time Warner Cable would give it even more leverage in an Internet backbone market where the company has already begun extracting tolls from competitors, a backbone provider said Thursday.

Comcast's proposed US\$45.2 billion deal would "threaten the innovative and entrepreneurial character and future of the Internet," said Dave Schaeffer, chairman and CEO of Cogent Communications Group, a backbone provider recently bypassed in a deal in which Netflix agreed to pay Comcast for faster access to its broadband subscribers.

The proposed merger has "the potential to cause grave anticompetitive and consumer harms for tens of millions of Americans who require access to high-speed, high-quality, affordable broadband Internet access," Schaeffer told the U.S. House Judiciary Committee's antitrust subcommittee.

Comcast Executive Vice President David Cohen dismissed Schaeffer's concerns during the hearing, saying it was Netflix's choice to bypass Cogent and sign a traffic priority deal with Comcast.

Comcast's gain in broadband market share through the Time Warner deal shouldn't have "any impact whatsoever" on the separate Internet backbone market, Cohen added.

The Internet backbone market is "an intensely competitive market with dozens of network operators, content delivery networks, peering organizations, transit providers," he said. "The Netflixes of the world, the Googles of the world, the Internet content companies, the young man working in his garage ... who wants to be the next Netflix, has dozens and dozens of choices on how to get his or its content onto the Internet."

But Schaeffer told a different story, saying Comcast has already used its position as the largest U.S. broadband provider to get favorable peering agreements. Since mid-2012, when Cogent and Netflix signed a deal, Comcast has refused to make inexpensive improvements to its connections with Cogent -- and has refused Cogent's offer to pay for those upgrades, he said.

"The result was degradation of service for our customers and for Netflix's viewers," Schaeffer said. "By refusing to augment capacity to reach its subscribers at any time, Comcast is effectively blocking its subscribers from accessing any Internet content they want and for which they already have paid."

Antitrust authorities don't need to look at the Internet backbone peering market, countered C. Scott Hemphill, a professor at Columbia Law School. Payments to exchange Internet traffic are not new, although in many cases, the payment was a simple exchange of traffic, he said.

"What's really going on is a fight about who should pay for what in this highly competitive business of interconnection," he said.

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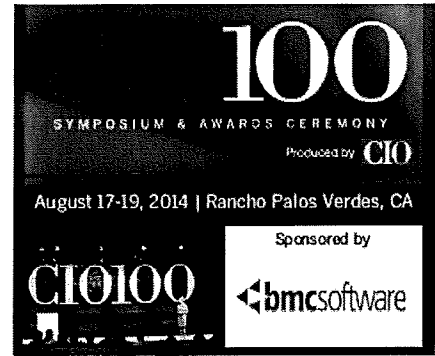
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Schaeffer's criticisms of Comcast's interconnection policies echo recent complaints from Netflix and from backbone provider Level 3. While Netflix signed a deal with Comcast, executives there have complained about paying Comcast to deliver traffic and called for the U.S. Federal Communications Commission to pass strong net neutrality rules prohibiting pay-for-priority arrangements.

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COMCAST PROFITS FROM THE POOR WITH INTERNET ESSENTIALS DEAL

The cable giant's program for low-income customers is touted as a solution to the digital divide, but it only distracts from the need for more regulation and competition.

Regulatory failures and telecommunications market consolidation have left most Americans with few options when it comes to a high-speed Internet access connection at home. There is a lack of market pressure to keep prices low or encourage the investment needed to expand networks, or to upgrade them for higher speeds or better service. This has exacerbated our digital divide. And while Comcast's highly publicized Internet Essentials program is supposed to address this problem, a deeper look shows that it is more effective as a customer acquisition program for Comcast than anything else.

The digital divide is an equity issue, an education issue, and an economic issue. Over 100 million Americans, about one-third of us, don't subscribe to fixed high-speed Internet access at home. For many, the problem is price (<http://allthingsd.com/20130530/cord-cutters-top-off-internet-service-more-than-tv/?KEYWORDS=ANTON+TROIANOVSKI>). Internet adoption rates for American households are lower, on average, in counties with the lowest median household income and outside of urban areas. Some have no options at all: 19 million Americans (6 percent of the population) cannot buy a connection (<http://www.fcc.gov/reports/eighth-broadband-progress-report>) where they live at any price.

How can children with no Internet connection at home compete with peers who are lucky enough to live in households that can afford access? There are more online educational opportunities than ever before, but a good Internet connection is needed to take advantage of many of them. Which kid will be able to learn to program, work with online tutors, rip through Khan Academy lessons, or participate in a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)? Students with home access to the Internet are 8 percent more likely to graduate (<http://transition.fcc.gov/state/local/Connect-to-Compete-March-08-2012.pdf>). And the divide doesn't disappear once they've graduated: Eighty percent of Fortune 500 companies require that job applications be submitted online. Can we afford to leave a third of Americans out of the new economy?

Against this backdrop, the public relations department at Comcast has been hard at work over the past 16 months, talking about the successes of the Comcast "Internet Essentials" program, which has been credited with providing 150,000 low-income households with a \$9.95-per-month "high-speed" Internet connection. To be eligible for the program, a household must include a student who currently receives a "free" or "reduced price" lunch through the Department of Agriculture's National School Lunch Program (NSLP), live in an area where Comcast currently offers Internet access, have not subscribed to Comcast Internet access within the last 90 days, and not have an overdue Comcast bill or unreturned equipment.

While the program may sound like a noble effort to combat the digital divide, it is deeply flawed in practice. Its so-called high-speed connections are painfully slow: 3Mbps downstream and 768Kbps upstream. This is equivalent to Comcast's bottom-tier service, normally billed at \$39.95, and is slower than 89 percent of cable connections in the U.S. These connections may not even be fast enough for modern web applications, especially if multiple users in the house are sharing the same connection at the same time. (The Internet Essentials program originally offered only 1.5Mbps, but Comcast raised the speed cap in the second year in response to criticism and a protest outside of Comcast's headquarters.)

The program is also ineffective because it is not serving enough low-income households. Comcast estimates that 2.6 million households are eligible for Internet Essentials. Of that 2.6 million, the program serves only 150,000 households (5.8 percent of those eligible). In the Philadelphia region, the heart of "Comcast Country" and the location of Comcast's corporate headquarters, only 3,250 families are participating (3.3 percent of those eligible). Even the number of eligible households is extraordinarily low, as the limits to participation noted above allow Comcast to capture new customers without cannibalizing its existing low-income subscriber base. Comcast's approach provides no relief to families on a tight budget that have already purchased a plan. For low-income NLSP families (at or below 130 percent of the poverty rate), affording the "market" rate for these packages can be quite challenging. The program will have zero effect on our national communications failings.

These limits aren't the result of cost concerns. Within its footprint (which spans 50 million households in 39 states—45 percent of the US population), the cost for Comcast to connect additional households is vanishingly low. With no additional network build needed, Internet Essentials represents almost pure profit for Comcast.

Comcast Internet Essentials is a customer acquisition program in disguise. Because it is limited to non-subscribers in Comcast's existing footprint, the program allows Comcast to acquire additional customers without needing to invest in expanding or upgrading its network. Gross profit margins for cable Internet access in areas where the network is already built are about 95 percent. Even at Comcast's "reduced" \$9.95 rate, every Internet

Essentials customer represents additional profit for Comcast, and those 150,000 Internet Essentials subscriptions represent almost \$18 million a year in income.

But that isn't all. When the program ends, many of these newly acquired customers will become highly profitable full-price customers. Comcast reserves the right to bill Internet Essentials subscribers at the full-price rates if they are dropped from the program. A household can be deemed ineligible if it fails to submit the right paperwork, fails to maintain its Comcast account in good standing, moves and changes its address, or decides to upgrade its access (which many will feel the need to do because of the slow speeds offered). Comcast plans to stop accepting new signups at the end of the 2013-2014 school year, and though it claims those receiving service through Internet Essentials will remain enrolled in the discount service plan as long as they meet the program's requirements, it will be telling to see how many families have been able to run the gauntlet.

When the dust settles, Comcast will have profited greatly from the Internet Essentials program, even without taking into account Comcast's gains in the government and public relations sphere. While most observers might assume that the program is an act of corporate generosity, it was originally conceived in the fall of 2009 as a way to turn a profit by offering slower connections to certain low-income households. These plans were temporarily tabled at the direction of Comcast lobbyist David Cohen, who knew that this type of program would be attractive to the FCC and thus useful as a bargaining chip. When the time came for negotiations over Comcast's \$13.75 billion takeover of NBC Universal, Comcast was able to offer something it was planning on doing anyway. In the end, the FCC was able to claim credit for forcing Comcast to implement a program to combat the digital divide, while in reality no arm-twisting was needed (<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/21/business/media/comcast-internet-essentials-brings-access-to-low-income-homes.html?pagewanted=all>).

Comcast routinely points to the Internet Essentials program in response to calls for regulation aimed at reliably easing the digital divide. This distracts the press and regulators from the real issues: local monopolies, the lack of competition for high-speed Internet access, and the need for regulatory attention. As of June 21, 2012, Comcast had delivered the Internet Essentials message to over 100 members of Congress and more than 2,000 state and local officials. To broaden its outreach effort, Comcast also engaged leading intergovernmental associations at the state and local level such as the National Governors Association, National Conference of State Legislatures, U.S. Conference of Mayors, and various other organizations of elected officials. On top of that, Comcast says that the impressions generated by media coverage of Internet Essentials launch events earned it "millions of dollars" worth of media.

Comcast's Internet Essentials program does more to benefit Comcast's customer acquisition, public relations, and lobbying departments than to help people in America who need high-speed Internet access at a reasonable price. The reality is that the program is a cleverly designed customer acquisition program that benefits Comcast's bottom line. The program is ineffective: the connections are not "high-speed," the program assists very few people, and the program does nothing for those who can't get a connection at all where they live. More importantly, the program does nothing to address the fundamental reason for the lack of ubiquitous, affordable high-speed Internet access in this country – the lack of competition. It earns Comcast good press while distracting regulators and public officials into thinking that changes in policy aren't needed and that digital divide problems will somehow work themselves out on their own as a result of corporate generosity. In the long run, Comcast Internet Essentials will do no more than contribute to the delay of much-needed regulation.

John Randall is a Program Manager at the Roosevelt Institute who provides legal, technical, and policy research assistance and strategic direction for the Telecommunications Equality Project.

Banner image of woman with Internet connection problems (<http://www.shutterstock.com/pic-100465558/stock-photo-stressed-hispanic-woman-having-some-connection-problems.html>) via Shutterstock.com

AT&T In Talks To Buy DirecTV For \$50 Billion

The Huffington Post | by Drew Guarini

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Posted: 05/12/2014 6:39 pm EDT Updated: 05/12/2014 10:59 pm EDT

Telecom giant AT&T is in "advanced talks" to buy satellite TV service DirecTV for about \$50 billion, according to Bloomberg News, which spoke with people familiar with the matter.

The potential agreement could be as close as two weeks away, according to the Wall Street Journal. With shares of DirecTV trading for around \$85 a piece in after-hours trading, the company's market value is currently somewhere in the \$45 billion range, or \$5 billion less than AT&T's supposed purchasing price.

For DirecTV, partnering with AT&T could be the solution to its biggest problems: declining subscribers and pressure from cord cutters, i.e. Americans who are forgoing cable packages and instead opting for streaming services or set-top boxes. These problems together likely help explain why DirecTV experienced its second-ever quarterly loss of U.S. subscribers last August.

Were the two sides to reach an agreement, the partnership would morph the companies into a massive pay-television conglomerate. According to the WSJ, AT&T and DirecTV had previously attempted to work out a deal, but those talks fell apart because of a number of issues, including pricing.

Bloomberg reported in late March that Dish Network Corp. Chairman Charlie Ergen had separately approached DirecTV about a deal after hearing of Comcast's plans to buy Time Warner Cable for \$45 billion in February. Together, Comcast and Time Warner would become the number one Internet service provider in 26 U.S. states.

This post has been revised to clarify that Charlie Ergen has played no role in AT&T's discussions about acquiring DirecTV.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/12/att-directtv_n_5312025.html?view=print&comm_ref=false

FierceCable

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Comcast's Cohen: Company will roll out usage-based pricing when trials are complete

May 14, 2014 | By Sue Marek

A Comcast ([NASDAQ: CMCSA](#)) executive said that he is confident the company will roll out usage-based data pricing nationwide once it completes a series of "robust" trials it is currently conducting in several markets. Speaking at the MoffettNathanson Media & Communications Summit today in New York City, David Cohen, executive vice president of Comcast, said that the company is moving slowly with its usage-based data trials to avoid alienating consumers. "We don't want to blow up our high-speed data business," he said.



Cohen

The company has been testing metered billing in several markets including Savannah, Ga.; Jackson, Miss.; Charleston, S.C.; Huntsville and Mobile, Ala.; and central Kentucky. Last December, Comcast added the Atlanta market. Cohen noted that Comcast has tested a few different models for its usage-based data pricing--but he said that the current model, in which customers are allotted 300 GB of data per month and then charged an additional \$10 for every 50 GB of data they use over the 300 GB, seems to be the most popular model.

Comcast is also offering a monthly discount of \$5 to light Internet users. Comcast subscribers who select the "Economy Plus" tier will receive monthly credits of \$5 on their bills if they consume less than 5 GB of data each month. Subscribers who download more than 5 GB of data will be charged \$1 per gigabyte. Cohen said that this low-usage option has been "reasonably popular" with customers, noting that the choice "is attractive to them."

However, when asked if he envisioned a scenario in the future where all high-speed broadband customers would have metered data plans, Cohen said he did not think that would happen. Instead, he said that while he believes that Comcast will have usage-based billing across its footprint, he thinks the "vast majority of customers will not be caught in usage buckets." Instead, he envisions that most customers will use a certain amount of data--whether it's 350 GB or 500 GB per month--that will fall within their data allotment.

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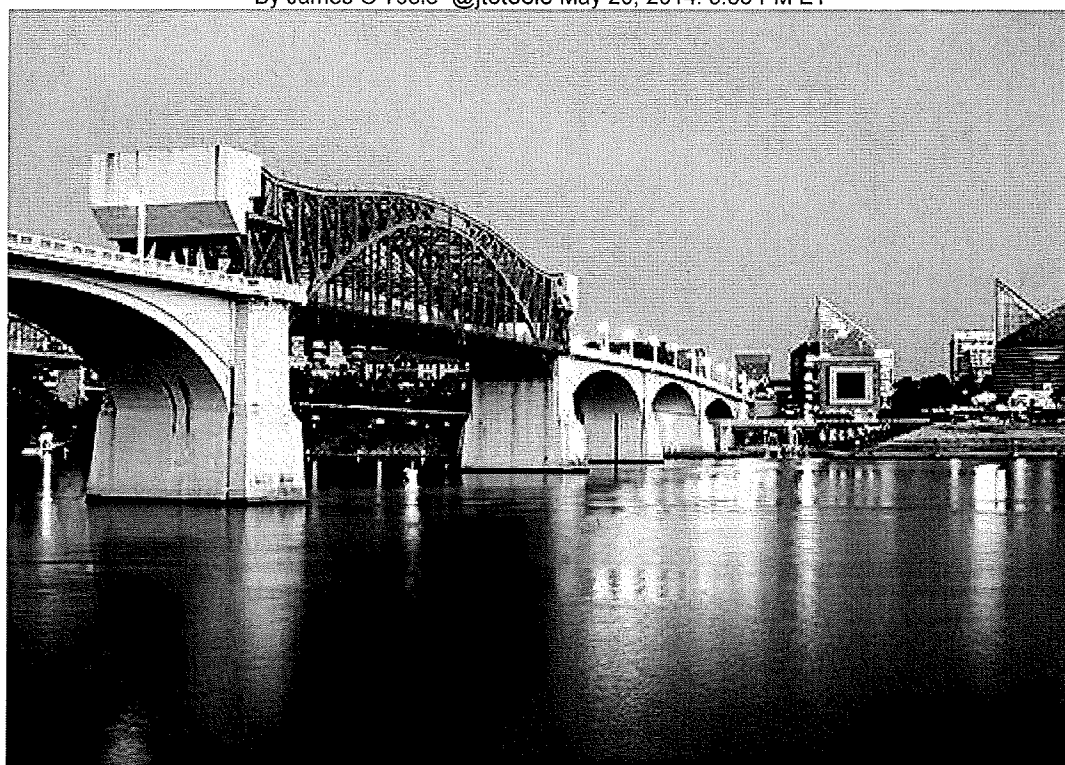
Kristi Schaeding

From: Deborah Guthrie
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2014 9:01 AM
To: Benenson, Walter (benenson@msu.edu); brianseipel@comcast.net; Crowley, Patrick (pcrowley@crowleylegal.com); Deborah Guthrie; Gardner, John (John_Gardner@cable.comcast.com); Kiyak, Tunga (kiyaktun@bus.msu.edu); Kristi Schaeding; Lathrop, Andrew (andrewlathrop@gmail.com); McCarrick, Alan (amccarr@cityofeastlansing.com); Ottinger, Matt (matt.ottinger@okemosschools.net); Styka, Ron (ronstyka@gmail.com)
Cc: Stephen Gebes; Frank Walsh; Kristi Schaeding
Subject: Chattanooga's high speed broadband

[comments](#)

Chattanooga's super-fast publicly owned Internet

By James O'Toole @jtotoole May 20, 2014: 5:53 PM ET



PHO

Chattanooga's Electric Power Board has automatically upgraded connection speeds for customers at no charge each of the past four years.

NEW YORK (CNNMoney)

Chattanooga, Tenn., may not be the first place that springs to mind when it comes to cutting-edge technology. But thanks to its ultra-high-speed Internet, the city has established itself as a center for innovation -- and an encouraging example for those frustrated with slow speeds and high costs from private broadband providers.

Chattanooga rolled out a fiber-optic network a few years ago that now offers speeds of up to 1000 Megabits per second, or 1 gigabit, for just \$70 a month. A cheaper 100 Megabit plan costs \$58 per month. Even the slower plan is still light-years ahead of the average U.S. connection speed, which stood at 9.8 megabits per second as of late last year, **according to Akamai Technologies.**

"It's really altered how we think of ourselves as a city," said Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke. "We're a midsized, southern city -- for us to be at the front of the technological curve rather than at the tail end is a real achievement."

As federal officials find themselves at the center of controversy over **net neutrality** and **the regulation of private Internet service providers** like Comcast (**CMCSA, Fortune 500**) and Time Warner Cable (**TWC, Fortune 500**), Chattanooga offers an alternative model for keeping people connected. A city-owned agency, the Electric Power Board, runs its own network, offering higher-speed service than any of its private-sector competitors can manage.

Related: Silicon Valley is fed up with slow Internet speeds

The problem with fiber networks is that they're hugely expensive to install and maintain, requiring operators to lay new wiring underground and link it to individual homes. Since 1996, cable operators have invested \$210 billion in broadband networks and other infrastructure, according to the National Cable and Telecommunications Association.

Since there's little competition in the broadband industry, some industry experts believe that there's little incentive for broadband providers to dramatically beef up their bandwidth and drastically improve their infrastructure.

Chattanooga's project started in 2008 with the goal of building a "smart" power grid for the city, capable of rerouting electricity on the fly to prevent outages in addition to carrying Internet traffic.

"It just didn't look like the private sector was going to bring true, high-speed connectivity to this market," EPB spokeswoman Danna Bailey said.

The city had to contend with lawsuits from Comcast and local cable operators as it worked to get the network up and running. But aided by an \$111 million stimulus grant from the Department of Energy, the service was up and running by September 2009. The EPB currently has around 5,000 business customers along with 57,540 households, which have access to "triple play" bundles of video, phone and Internet service just like they would from a private provider.

"Deploying a network for telecommunications is not fundamentally different from deploying a network for power," said Benoit Felten, a broadband expert with **Diffraction Analysis**. "Chattanooga is the prime example of that, and it's absolutely worked."

The Federal Communications Commission recognizes the potential of municipality-run broadband, saying earlier this year that it will push for the repeal of state and local laws supported by the cable industry that make it harder for cities to set up their own networks.

Related: Netflix blasts Internet providers, saying consumers "deserve better"

Chattanooga officials say the network has helped spark a burgeoning local tech scene and the relocation of a number of businesses, drawn by both the fast Internet and the reliability offered by the smart grid.

Hunter Lindsay, regional director of IT services firm **Claris Networks**, said the 85-person company moved its data-center operations from Knoxville to Chattanooga "just because of the network."

"It's logical for every city to do it, but that doesn't mean it's going to happen," Lindsay said.

Berke said Chattanooga regularly receives inquiries from other cities both in the U.S. and internationally that are interested in setting up their own networks. The city recently set up a task force to figure out how to bring the network to poorer families and make sure the community gains the maximum benefit.

"People understand that high-speed Internet access is quickly becoming a national infrastructure issue just like the highways were in the 1950s," Berke said. "If the private sector is unable to provide that kind of bandwidth because of the steep infrastructure investment, then just like highways in the 1950s, the government has to consider providing that support." ■

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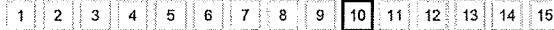
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2014 Tulip Time

"It's just an absolutely brilliant, perfect picture with great audio, so it's really been a help to us."

-Matt Van Dyken
(Technology Services Coordinator, City of Holland)



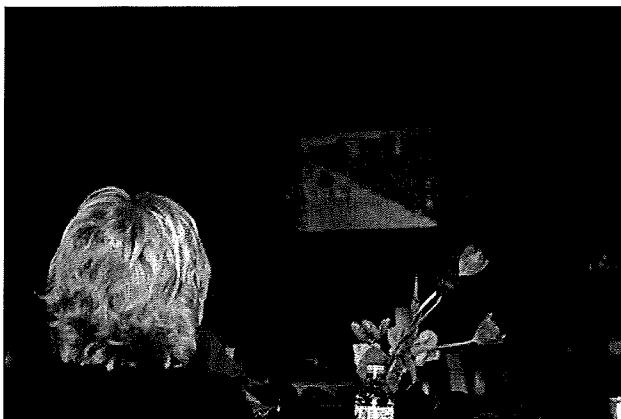
Holland, MI—Tulip Time, the annual Holland tulip festival, attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to the West Michigan city with parades, tours, Dutch dance performances, and over six million tulips. In addition to all those who attend the outdoor events each year, there are still those who prefer to watch the events indoors or are unable to be outside all day due to age, illness, time constraints, or other circumstances. To allow these people to experience as much of Tulip Time as possible, the City of Holland's broadcast station, Holland Cable TV (HCTV) enlisted LEIGHTRONIX to help broadcast and live stream the event.



Using the IncodeX One™ Point-to-Point solution, the PEGvault-SD™ video recorder, the UltraNEXUS™ video

broadcast server, and the

PEGstream-SD2™ coupled with the PEG Stream™ live streaming service, HCTV was able to provide event content to those at the Holland Civic Center, residents at home with access to their broadcast channels, as well as to those across the world through the Internet.



"We've been able to bring the streams, utilizing our existing fiber optic network, to the civic center for the folks that can't be outside in the sun for too long, and it's just an absolutely brilliant, perfect picture with great audio, so it's really been a help to us." –Matt VanDyken

Point-to-Point

HCTV had numerous cameras stationed throughout the parade route on W. 8th street, which fed into a production switcher. This switcher then provided a high definition video feed to the IncodeX One video encoder. The IncodeX One encoded the video as high quality H.264 video and delivered a high definition video feed over the city's network to a high quality decoder at the civic center. The result was a live Point-to-Point HD broadcast that displayed the feed on a large screen for citizens to watch indoors at the civic center.

"We've been able to bring the streams, utilizing our existing fiber optic network, to the civic center for the folks that can't be outside in the sun for too long, and it's just an absolutely brilliant, perfect picture with great audio, so it's really been a help to us," Matt VanDyken, the technology services coordinator for the City of Holland said.

Broadcast and Stream

While the IncodeX One encoded the video for a live Point-to-Point broadcast, the feed from the production switcher was also sent to a PEGvault-SD to initiate a PEGcast™. After one minute of video was recorded, the PEGvault-SD began sending the resulting file to the UltraNEXUS at HCTV's headquarters. The UltraNEXUS began a Next to Live™ broadcast of the festival on the station's Comcast Channel 24 and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99 after receiving one minute of recorded video. The UltraNEXUS simultaneously passed the video and audio to the PEGstream-SD2 for conversion to a live stream that was delivered to the city's website through the PEG Stream live streaming service from LEIGHTRONIX.

"This event is so important to our community. We have several hundred thousand people come out. It's just a great event and we love having LEIGHTRONIX here as a partner of ours," VanDyken said. "We are able to bring our cable signal, using their gear, to people all over the world. We've seen people from across the country and all over the world streaming our event live."

Tulip Time is the City of Holland's biggest event each year and attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors. Utilizing broadcast and streaming solutions from LEIGHTRONIX, the City of Holland was able to expand their reach and the exposure of the event.

"We can't thank LEIGHTRONIX enough for being here," Van Dyken said. "It's been just a great, great event. With the partners that we have and the people we have volunteering for us, it's just been an awesome event."

The Problem

With a need to deliver parade content to viewers across the globe as well as a need to deliver it to local citizens that preferred to watch the parade from indoors, the City of Holland needed a Point-to-Point solution and a live streaming solution to broadcast and stream the annual event.

The Solution

- [IncodeX One](#)
- [PEGvault-SD](#)
- [UltraNEXUS](#)
- [PEGstream-SD2](#)
- [PEG Stream](#)

How It Works

The IncodeX One encoder transmitted the video signal to a high quality decoder for a Point-to-Point broadcast while the PEGvault-SD delivered the video file to the UltraNEXUS to broadcast the feed and deliver it to the PEGstream-SD2 to be live streamed.

In Their Words

"We love having LEIGHTRONIX here as a partner of ours."

–Matt VanDyken
Technology Services Coordinator
City of Holland

End Result

"We are able to bring our cable signal, using their gear, to people all over the world. We've seen people from across the country and all over the world streaming our event live."

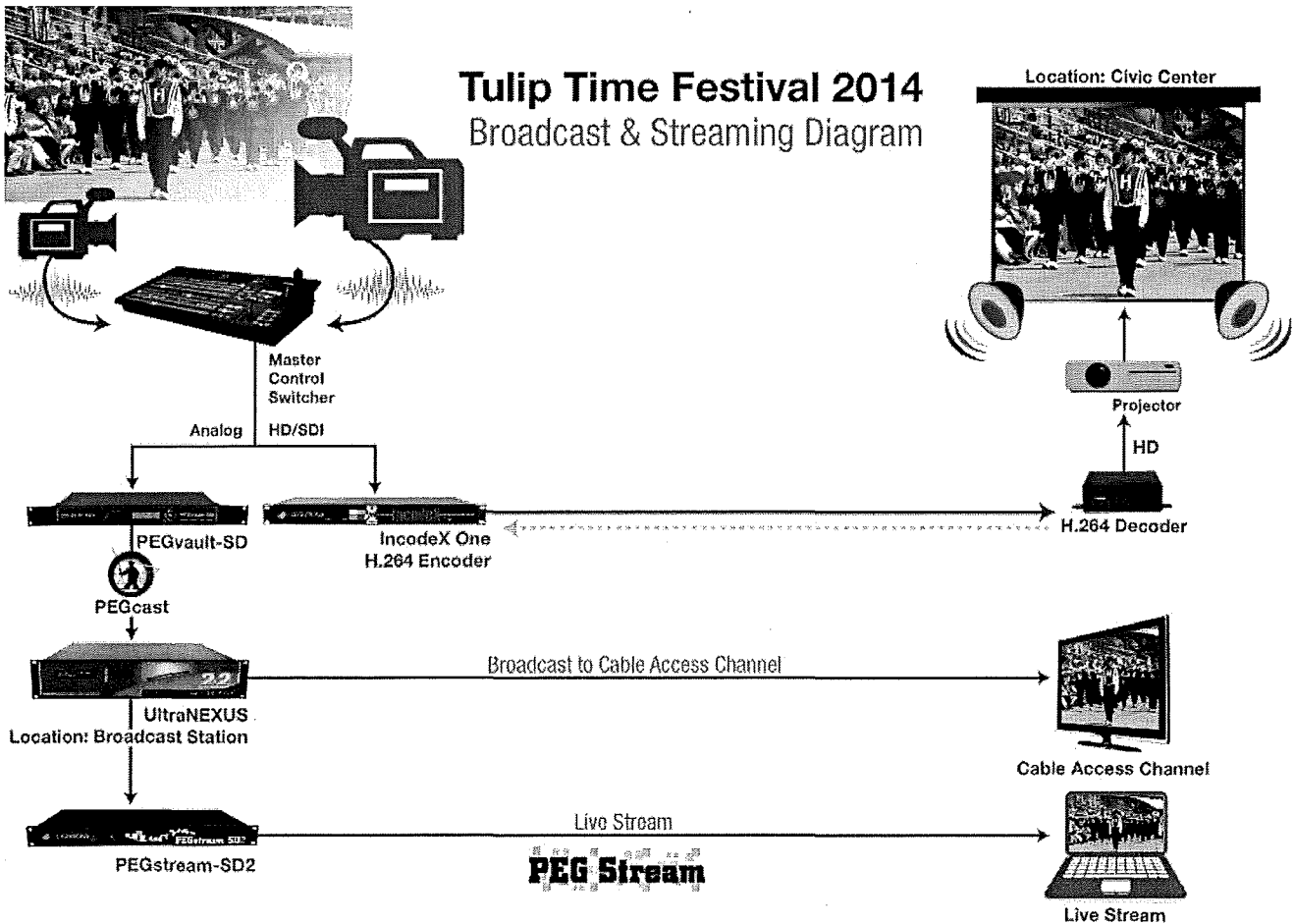
–Matt VanDyken
Technology Services Coordinator
City of Holland

At a Glance

- **Name:** Tulip Time
- **Location:** Holland, MI
- **Then and Now:** Holland's first Tulip Time Festival in 1930 featured 250,000 tulips. Today the festival boasts over six million tulips.
- **Dutch Heritage:** The city is known for its Dutch heritage which it proudly boasts at the annual Tulip Time Festival. Hope College, which is located in Holland, uses the Flying Dutchmen as its mascot.
- **Windmill:** Home of the De Zwann (Dutch for Swan) windmill. The De Zwann windmill was originally erected in the Netherlands in 1761 and is the only working authentic Dutch windmill in the United States.
- **Famous Residents:**
 - L. Frank Baum—author of "The Wizard of Oz"
 - Kirk Cousins—current NFL quarterback
 - Rob Malda—founder of Slashdot
 - Ron Schipper—college football coach, member of the College Football Hall of Fame
 - Erik Price—founder of Blackwater USA
 - Brian Vander Ark—lead singer of The Verve Pipe
 - Jim Katt—former MLB pitcher, 16 time Gold Glove winner and three time All Star
 - Rachel Reenstra—tv host, currently hosts "The Wildlife Docs" on ABC
 - Richard Smalley—won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, discovered a new form of carbon
 - Carol van Voorst—former United States Ambassador to Iceland

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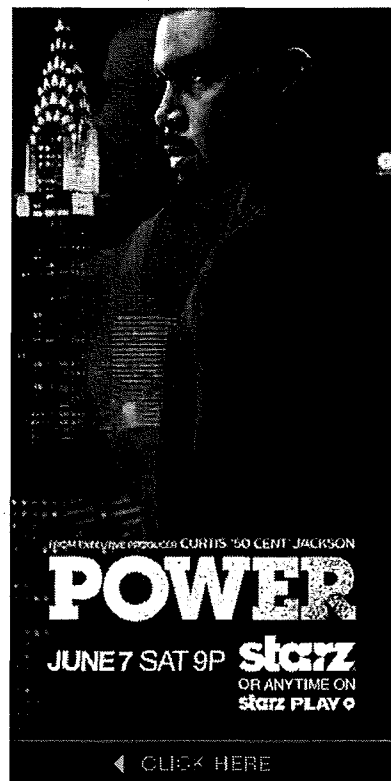
Comcast has now filed both parts of its proposed merger with Time Warner Cable at the FCC and the heavy lifting on vetting the deal, and comments about the deal, can begin in earnest.

Comcast Thursday filed with the FCC the public interest statement, exhibits and license applications for its spin-off of 3.9 million customers, which it promised to do to try and assuage concerns about the size of the combined company. A key public interest point the company makes is how the creation of the new company, SpinCo, will bring more competition to the marketplace--while the TWC merger will not reduce it, Comcast has already pointed out.

"The SpinCo transaction will create substantial public interest benefits," says Comcast. "While SpinCo will be a new company, it will be larger than all but four other cable companies in the United States and will have a tightly integrated, contiguous service footprint. This scale and geographic scope will facilitate investment in innovation and high-quality services within SpinCo's footprint. From the outset, SpinCo will be well positioned to compete aggressively in the highly competitive markets for high-speed Internet, voice, and video services."

Comcast will not own shares in either Charter or SpinCo after the closing of the spin-off, the company says, and for the first eight years would not be allowed to own more than 1% of SpinCo shares. "In short, SpinCo will be entirely independent of Comcast," the cable operator told the FCC.

As to the public benefit of trading systems with Charter, Comcast says the "geographic contiguity" (clustering) of its system swaps and the "expanded" presence of the combined Comcast/TWC "will produce economies of scale and scope and other efficiencies for Comcast



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For its part, Charter says by increasing its scale and better clustering its footprint, it will be "better positioned to compete with regional telco video providers, DBS providers, incumbent local exchange carriers ("ILECs"), and other service providers, while bringing its class-leading services and products to former TWC customers."

The complicated system switch consists of:

- "Transfer of cable systems from Charter to Comcast as part of an exchange of systems,
- "Transfer of cable systems from Comcast to Charter as part of an asset sale and exchange of systems, and
- "Transfer of cable systems from Comcast to a new, independent, publicly traded company ("SpinCo")
- "Comcast-TWC Supplement Letter providing an update on the Comcast-TWC merger."

"We have now filed the Public Interest Statement and other documents associated with our planned divestiture of 3.9 million subscribers at the conclusion of the Time Warner Cable transaction, Comcast said in a statement. "Concurrently, Charter has filed their documents for these deals. In addition to the Public Interest Statement for the systems we will obtain directly from Charter, we've filed updated maps and other information which shows, among other things, how the divestitures will change the Comcast footprint after the TWC transaction. With these filings, all necessary applications have been submitted to the FCC and we look forward to continuing to work with the FCC and the DOJ as the review process moves forward."

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June 25, 2014



Chicago City Council to Comcast: End the Delays and Support CAN TV

Posted: 06/13/2014 12:41 pm

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Comcast, Chicago's largest cable provider, is seeking a 10-year renewal of its cable franchise in Chicago. Nationally, Comcast's wants to take over Time Warner, combining the nation's two largest cable companies. The merger is attracting attention from the justice department, public officials, and a wide range of public interest groups. When advocating for approval of the merger, Comcast executive, David Cohen, stated that Comcast has consistently "over-delivered" on its public interest commitments.

It is precisely those public interest commitments that have caught the attention of Chicago Aldermen as negotiations go into overtime. The main issue is Comcast's reluctance to meet a standard of support for public access television channels operated by CAN TV that RCN, a much smaller company, already meets as part of its 2012 franchise renewal.

Over 40 members of the City Council made it clear in a recent letter to Comcast that they will oppose Comcast's franchise renewal if it doesn't include an acceptable deal for CAN TV. 10th Ward Alderman, John Pope said, "My colleagues and I want no further delays in Comcast meeting its public obligations in Chicago."

Comcast's renewal comes at a time when public protections in the cable and video market have been weakened by major corporations lobbying for regulatory "relief" while claiming increased competition for customers. At the same time, cable revenues in Chicago are robust, with Comcast enjoying an 80 percent increase in revenues from 2002-2012. By 2013, Comcast controlled two-thirds of the Chicago cable market, and had annual cable revenues of over \$384 million within the City.

Gordon Quinn of Kartemquin Films and Committee for Media Access was recently on WBEZ recalling the cable industry's start in Chicago, when a wide diversity of groups came together to advocate for CAN TV's creation, advocacy work that continues to this day. Says Quinn, "It's amazing to me to watch over the years the way the CAN TV has evolved into this multiplatform entity that helps all different kinds of people get their word out, tell their stories, and talk to their constituencies."

For 30 years, CAN TV has worked to protect and extend the public's most fundamental right - the right to speak and be heard. As a result, Chicago residents and groups now create more local programming than can be found on any other station in Chicago. CAN TV's training program helps people adapt to a changing multimedia environment, teaching skills toward independent use of media and building technological literacy in the community.

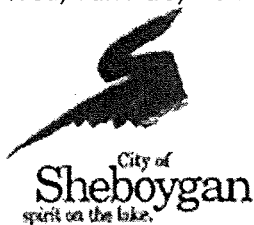
Chicago's cable ordinance created CAN TV 30 years ago with a requirement that cable companies operating in the City allocate channels and funding to support CAN TV's public mission. "This is something that they owe the community," says Quinn.

Kristi Schaeding

From: Deborah Guthrie
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 4:48 PM
To: Benenson, Walter (benenson@msu.edu); brianseipel@comcast.net; Crowley, Patrick (pcrowley@crowleylegal.com); Kiyak, Tunga (kiyaktun@bus.msu.edu); Lathrop, Andrew (andrewlathrop@gmail.com); Styka, Ron (ronstyka@gmail.com)
Cc: Kristi Schaeding; Stephen Gebes
Subject: Fiber articles of interest

Wisconsin Local Governments Collaborate for Schools, City, and County

Wed, June 18, 2014 | Posted by Igonzalez



Sheboygan County, the City of Sheboygan, and the Sheboygan Area School District (SASD) plan to collaborate to deploy a fiber network. According to an article in the Sheboygan Press, all three entities seek cost savings and higher capacity connections.

Approximately, 49,000 people live in the City of Sheboygan; there are 10,000 students attending SASD. Over 115,000 people live in the County located on the western shore of Lake Michigan.

The County, the City, and SASD will split the cost of constructing the ring, approximately \$1.4 million. Each entity will then pay for laterals to connect its facilities to the ring. The total to construct the ring and connect each entities' facilities will be approximately \$3.58 million.

[... Excellent Example of Collaboration for Public Savings - Learn More ...](#)

Chanute City Commission Approves FTTH Plan

Fri, June 20, 2014 | Posted by Igonzalez



Chanute City Commission decided on June 9th to take the next step to bring *ftth* to the community; Commissioners voted unanimously to pursue and finalize funding to deploy a municipal network.

The City's current fiber network provides connectivity to schools, hospitals, electric utility and municipal facilities, the local college, and several businesses. Chanute has worked since 1984 to incrementally grow its network with no borrowing or bonding. Plans to expand the publicly owned infrastructure to every property on the electric grid began to take shape last year.

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 DEBORAH D. MCADAMS /
 07.11.2014 03:57PM

FCC OKs Online Clip Captioning Rules

Compliance deadline on straight clips is Jan. 1, 2016

WASHINGTON—The Federal Communications Commission has approved new rules that will require closed captioning of video clips posted online. The rules are an expansion of those approved in 2012, which were triggered by the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010, intended to "ensure equal access to all forms of programming by individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing." The 2012 rules covered full-length broadcast, cable and satellite TV programming posted online. Clips were punted at the time for further comments.

The new rules apply to clips of the same type of programming posted to the originators' websites or mobile apps. They do not extend to third party websites or apps.

Compliance deadlines are based on the type of video clip:

Jan. 1, 2016, will apply to "straight-lift" clips, which contain a single excerpt of a captioned television program with the same video and audio that was presented on television;
 Jan. 1, 2017, will apply to "montages," which occur when a single file contains multiple straight lift clips; and
 July 1, 2017, will apply to video clips of live and near-live television programming, such as news or sporting events.

Distributors will have a grace period of 12 hours after the associated live video programming appears on TV and eight hours after the associated near-live video programming is shown on TV before the clip must be captioned online, "to give distributors flexibility to post time-sensitive clips online without delay."

The requirements do not apply to video clips posted before the compliance deadline.

The commission also issued a Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking asking for comment on four related issues:

If closed-captioning rules should be applied to video clips posted by third-party distributors not covered by these rules;

Whether or not to decrease or eliminate the eight- and 12-hour grace periods, "as technological advancements facilitate the prompt online posting of such clips with captions;"

Application of the IP closed-captioning requirements to mash-ups that did not appear on television with captions; and

Application of the IP closed-captioning rules to "advance" video clips, which are those that are added to the distributor's online library after the applicable compliance deadline but before the video programming is shown on television with captions, and which then remain online.

Also see...

June 7, 2013, "[CC Cleanup: Device Deadlines Defined, Clips Get Punted](#)"

The short version is thus: A) Jan. 1, 2014 is the manufacturing deadline by which video players must be able to process closed captioning; B) That deadline is extended for Blu-ray and DVD players; C) DSLRs are exempt; D) Devices can either render or pass through captioning; and E) regulators are punting on video clips. - See more at: <http://www.tvtechnology.com/article/closed-captioning-cleanup-device-deadlines-defined-clips-get-punted/219912#sthash.Ia3vcfSn.dpuf> The short version is thus: A) Jan. 1, 2014 is the manufacturing deadline by which video players must be able to process closed captioning; B) That deadline is extended for Blu-ray and DVD players; C) DSLRs are exempt; D) Devices can either render or pass through captioning; and E) regulators are punting on video clips

August 7, 2013, "[Closed Caption Mandate Nears](#)"

According to the mandate, by Sept. 30, all nonexempt full-length video programming delivered via IP must be closed captioning if the programming is published or shown on TV in the United States that is not edited for Internet distribution. By March 30, 2013, all live and near-live programming delivered via IP must be closed captioned. Non-captioned archival material already in the broadcaster's library must be captioned within 45 days after the date it was broadcast on television with captions on after March 30, 2014 and before March 30, 2015. Additional programming broadcast afterward through 2016 is subject to staggered deadlines.

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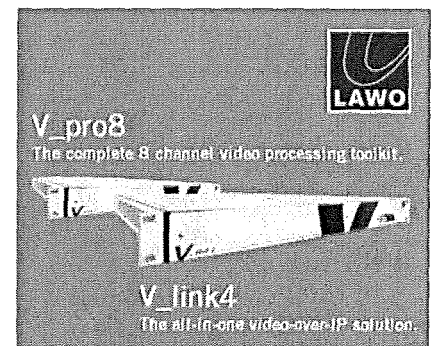
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FRIDAY 3:00PM
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