

From: Lewis Halprin, chairman, Stow Cable Advisory Committee

To: Dept of Telecommunications and Cable

Date: April 17, 2009

Subject: Reject Verizon's Form 500 Amendment Petition

Dear Sirs,

It is unclear to me what is meant by Verizon's petition when they say "withholding from public disclosure". Does it mean withholding the subscriber count from being available to the general public but still available to the Town's cable license administrators (effectively making the Consumer Complaint form 500 and the CATV license fee payment confidential), or does it mean that even the town's cable license administrators will not be provided that information?

On one hand, if the withheld information is available to the town cable license administrators but is marked confidential, I believe that towns are not allowed to withhold such information from the public unless it is an 'executive' matter, and even that is not withheld from the public forever.

On the other hand, if the withheld information is not available even to the town cable license administrators, then it becomes impossible for those administrators to determine what percentage the consumer complaints reported by Form 500 is to the total number of subscribers, effectively making that report useless. Likewise, how can the license administrators determine if the proper amount of money was received from the cable company for the state CATV license fee if the number of subscribers is not provided?

I therefore do not recommend approval of Verizon's petition to withhold the subscriber count in order to prevent it from being made public. The towns would have no way to verify that the amounts of license fees are correct or that repair and complaint information provided in required form 500 represents normal or represents unusually high amounts.

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