

January 18, 2024

#### Via Email

Select Board Town of Carlisle Carlisle Town Hall 66 Westford St. Carlisle, MA 01741

Re: Town of Carlisle- Cable Television Renewal License

Dear Chairman and Members of the Board:

Enclosed is the executed Cable Television Renewal License between the Town of Carlisle and Comcast which commented December 19, 2023.

Please feel free to contact Catherine Maloney @ Catherine\_Maloney@cable.comcast.com should you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Greg Franks
Greg Franks, Director
Government Relations

Enc.

cc: Cable Advisory Committee – Town of Carlisle (via email)
Rian Holmquest, Associate – Harrington Heep LLP (via email)
Shonda Green – MA DTC (via email)
Catherine Maloney – Comcast Sr. Manager of Government & Regulatory Affair (via email)
Denise Mason – Comcast Manager of Government & Regulatory Affairs (via email)
Comcast Corporate Franchising (via transmittal email)
Comcast Division Franchising and Finance (via transmittal email)

# CABLE TELEVISION RENEWAL LICENSE

#### **GRANTED TO**

# Comcast of Massachusetts III, Inc.

**Granted By** 

# THE SELECT BOARD TOWN OF CARLISLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Renewal Term December 19, 2023 – December 18, 2033

# Table of Contents

ARTICLE 1	7
DEFINITIONS	
SECTION 1.1 – DEFINITIONS	7
ARTICLE 2	14
GRANT OF RENEWAL LICENSE	14
SECTION 2.1 - GRANT OF RENEWAL LICENSE	14
SECTION 2.2 - TERM: NON-FXCI USIVITY	14
SECTION 2.3 - RENEWAL	14
SECTION 2.4 - RESERVATION OF AUTHORITY	
SECTION 2.5 - NON-EXCLUSIVITY OF LICENSE	15
ARTICLE 3	17
SYSTEM SPECIFICATIONS AND CONSTRUCTION	
SECTION 3.1 – AREA TO BE SERVED	17
SECTION 3.1 – AREA TO BE SERVED	17
SECTION 3.2 – LINE EXTENSION POLICY	17
SECTION 3.2 – EINE EXTENSION OF SECTION 3.3 – RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISIONS	18
SECTION 3.4 – INSTALLATION CHARGES SECTION 3.5 – SUBSCRIBER NETWORK	18
SECTION 3.5 – SUBSCRIBER NETWORK SECTION 3.6 – LOCATION OF THE CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM	19
SECTION 3.6 – LOCATION OF THE CABLE TELEVISION 353 LEW SECTION 3.7 - FREE DROPS AND MONTHLY SERVICE TO PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND SCHOOLS	19
SECTION 3.7 - FREE DROPS AND MONTHLY SERVICE TO POBLIC BOILDINGS AND SCHOOLS MINISTER SERVICE SERV	19
SECTION 3.9 - EMERGENCY ALERT OVERRIDE CAPACITY	20
SECTION 3.10 - SYSTEM TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS	20
ARTICLE 4	
TECHNOLOGICAL AND SAFETY STANDARDS	21
SECTION 4.1 - SYSTEM MAINTENANCE	21
SECTION 4.2 - REPAIRS AND RESTORATION	21
SECTION 4.3 – UNDERGROUND FACILITIES	22
SECTION 4 4 – TREE TRIMMING	23
SECTION 4.5 – LOCATION OF PLANT	23
SECTION 4.6 – BUILDING MOVES	23
SECTION 4.7 – DIG SAFE	24
SECTION 4.8 – DISCONNECTION AND RELOCATION	24
SECTION 4.9 – EMERGENCY REMOVAL OF PLANT	24
SECTION 4.10 – RIGHT TO INSPECTION	25
SECTION 4.11 – PRIVATE PROPERTY	25
SECTION 4.12 – PEDESTALS	25
SECTION 4.12 SERVICE INTERRIPTIONS	26

ARTICLE 5	27
PROGRAMMING	27
SECTION 5.1 – BASIC CABLE SERVICE	27
SECTION 5.2 – PROGRAMMING	27
SECTION 5.3 – REMOTE CONTROLS	27
SECTION 5.4 – STEREO TV TRANSMISSIONS	27
SECTION 5.5 – CABLE CHANNELS FOR COMMERCIAL USE	28
SECTION 5.6 – CONTINUITY OF SERVICES	28
SECTION 5.7 – COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS	28
ARTICLE 6	29
PEG ACCESS CHANNEL(S) AND SUPPORT	29
SECTION 6.1 – PEG ACCESS CHANNEL(S)	29
SECTION 6.2 – PEG ACCESS PROVIDER	30
SECTION 6.3 – PEG ACCESS CABLECASTING	31
SECTION 6.4 – ANNUAL SUPPORT	33
SECTION 6.5 – CAPITAL PAYMENTS	34
SECTION 6.6 – NON-COMMERCIAL PROGRAMMING	35
SECTION 6.7 – NAVIGATION TO PEG CHANNELS AND ELECTRONIC PROGRAMMING GUIDE	35
SECTION 6.8 - INTERCONNECTION WITH COMPETING CABLE LICENSE	36
ARTICLE 7	37
FRANCHISE FEES AND LICENSE FEES	
SECTION 7.1 – LICENSE FEE PAYMENTS	37
SECTION 7.2 – FRANCHISE FEE	37
SECTION 7.3 – PAYMENT	37
SECTION 7.4 – OTHER PAYMENT OBLIGATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS	38
SECTION 7.5 – LATE PAYMENT	38
SECTION 7.6 – RECOMPUTATION	38
SECTION 7.7 – AFFILIATES USE OF SYSTEM	39
SECTION 7.8 – METHOD OF PAYMENT	39
ARTICLE 8	40
RATES AND CHARGES	40
SECTION 8.1 – RATES AND CHARGES	40
SECTION 8.2 – RATE REGULATION	40
SECTION 8.3 – CREDIT FOR SERVICE INTERRUPTION	41
ARTICLE 9	42
CUSTOMER SERVICE, SUBCRIBER RIGHTS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION	42
SECTION 9.1 – TELEPHONE ACCESS	
SECTION 9.1 – TELEPHONE ACCESS	42
SECTION 9.3 – FCC CUSTOMER SERVICE OBLIGATIONS	43
SECTION 9.4 – BUSINESS PRACTICE STANDARDS	43
SECTION 9.5 – COMPLAINT RESOLUTION PROCEDURES	44
SECTION 9.6 – EMPLOYEE IDENTIFICATION CARDS	45
SECTION 0.7 PROTECTION OF SURSCRIRER PRIVACY	49

SECTION 9.8 – PRIVACY WRITTEN NOTICE	45
SECTION 9.9 – MONITORING	46
SECTION 9.10 – SUBSCRIBER'S RIGHT TO INSPECT AND VERIFY INFORMATION	46
SECTION 9.11 – SOBSCRIBER'S RIGHT TO TROPECT AND VERIL THE ORIVINATION SECTION 9.11 – RESPECT FOR PRIVATE PROPERTY	47
ARTICLE 10	48
INSURANCE AND BONDS	48
SECTION 10.1 – INSURANCE	
SECTION 10.2 – PERFORMANCE BOND	50
SECTION 10.3 – INDEMNIFICATION	51
ARTICLE 11	
ADMINISTRATION AND REGULATION	
SECTION 11.1 – REGULATORY AUTHORITY	52
SECTION 11.2 – POLICE AND REGULATORY POWERS	52
SECTION 11.3 – PERFORMANCE EVALUATION HEARINGS	52
SECTION 11.4 – NONDISCRIMINATION	53
SECTION 11.5 – FMERGENCY REMOVAL OF PLANT	53
SECTION 11.6 – REMOVAL AND RELOCATION	53
SECTION 11.7 – REMOVAL OR ABANDONMENT	54
SECTION 11.8 – TRANSFER OF THE RENEWAL LICENSE	54
SECTION 11.9 – EFFECT OF UNUATHORIZED TRANSFER ACTION	55
SECTION 11.10 – JURISDICTION/VENUE	55
ARTICLE 12	56
DETERMINATION OF BREACH - LICENSE REVOCATION	
SECTION 12.1 NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE	56
SECTION 12.1 – NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE	56 57
SECTION 12.1 – NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE	56 57 57
SECTION 12.1 – NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE	
SECTION 12.1 – NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE	
SECTION 12.1 – NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE  SECTION 12.2 – REVOCATION OF THE RENEWAL LICENSE  SECTION 12.3 – NON-EXCLUSIVITY OF REMEDY  SECTION 12.4 – NO WAIVER-CUMULATIVE REMEDIES  SECTION 12.5 – LIQUIDATED DAMAGES	
SECTION 12.1 – NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE	
SECTION 12.1 – NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE	56 57 57 58 58 60
SECTION 12.1 – NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE	56 57 57 58 58 60 60
SECTION 12.1 – NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE  SECTION 12.2 – REVOCATION OF THE RENEWAL LICENSE  SECTION 12.3 – NON-EXCLUSIVITY OF REMEDY  SECTION 12.4 – NO WAIVER-CUMULATIVE REMEDIES.  SECTION 12.5 – LIQUIDATED DAMAGES.  ARTICLE 13  REPORTS, AUDITS AND PERFORMANCE TESTS  SECTION 13.1 – GENERAL	56 57 58 58 58 60 60 60
SECTION 12.1 – NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE  SECTION 12.2 – REVOCATION OF THE RENEWAL LICENSE  SECTION 12.3 – NON-EXCLUSIVITY OF REMEDY  SECTION 12.4 – NO WAIVER-CUMULATIVE REMEDIES  SECTION 12.5 – LIQUIDATED DAMAGES  ARTICLE 13  REPORTS, AUDITS AND PERFORMANCE TESTS  SECTION 13.1 – GENERAL  SECTION 13.2 – FINANCIAL REPORTS  SECTION 13.3 – CABLE SYSTEM INFORMATION	56 57 57 58 58 60 60 60
SECTION 12.1 – NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE  SECTION 12.2 – REVOCATION OF THE RENEWAL LICENSE  SECTION 12.3 – NON-EXCLUSIVITY OF REMEDY  SECTION 12.4 – NO WAIVER-CUMULATIVE REMEDIES  SECTION 12.5 – LIQUIDATED DAMAGES  ARTICLE 13  REPORTS, AUDITS AND PERFORMANCE TESTS  SECTION 13.1 – GENERAL  SECTION 13.2 – FINANCIAL REPORTS  SECTION 13.3 – CABLE SYSTEM INFORMATION  SECTION 13.4 – IN-HOUSE TELEPHONE REPORTS	56 57 57 58 58 60 60 60 60
SECTION 12.1 – NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE  SECTION 12.2 – REVOCATION OF THE RENEWAL LICENSE  SECTION 12.3 – NON-EXCLUSIVITY OF REMEDY  SECTION 12.4 – NO WAIVER-CUMULATIVE REMEDIES  SECTION 12.5 – LIQUIDATED DAMAGES  ARTICLE 13  REPORTS, AUDITS AND PERFORMANCE TESTS  SECTION 13.1 – GENERAL  SECTION 13.2 – FINANCIAL REPORTS  SECTION 13.3 – CABLE SYSTEM INFORMATION  SECTION 13.4 – IN-HOUSE TELEPHONE REPORTS  SECTION 13.5 – SUBSCRIBER COMPLAINT REPORTS	56 57 57 58 58 60 60 60 60 60
SECTION 12.1 – NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE  SECTION 12.2 – REVOCATION OF THE RENEWAL LICENSE  SECTION 12.3 – NON-EXCLUSIVITY OF REMEDY  SECTION 12.4 – NO WAIVER-CUMULATIVE REMEDIES  SECTION 12.5 – LIQUIDATED DAMAGES  ARTICLE 13  REPORTS, AUDITS AND PERFORMANCE TESTS  SECTION 13.1 – GENERAL  SECTION 13.2 – FINANCIAL REPORTS  SECTION 13.3 – CABLE SYSTEM INFORMATION  SECTION 13.4 – IN-HOUSE TELEPHONE REPORTS  SECTION 13.5 – SUBSCRIBER COMPLAINT REPORTS  SECTION 13.6 – ANNUAL PERFORMANCE TESTS	56 57 57 58 58 60 60 60 60 60 61
SECTION 12.1 – NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE  SECTION 12.2 – REVOCATION OF THE RENEWAL LICENSE  SECTION 12.3 – NON-EXCLUSIVITY OF REMEDY  SECTION 12.4 – NO WAIVER-CUMULATIVE REMEDIES.  SECTION 12.5 – LIQUIDATED DAMAGES.  ARTICLE 13  REPORTS, AUDITS AND PERFORMANCE TESTS  SECTION 13.1 – GENERAL  SECTION 13.2 – FINANCIAL REPORTS  SECTION 13.3 – CABLE SYSTEM INFORMATION  SECTION 13.4 – IN-HOUSE TELEPHONE REPORTS.  SECTION 13.5 – SUBSCRIBER COMPLAINT REPORTS  SECTION 13.6 – ANNUAL PERFORMANCE TESTS  SECTION 13.7 – QUALITY OF SERVICE	56 57 58 58 58 60 60 60 60 61 61
SECTION 12.1 – NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE  SECTION 12.2 – REVOCATION OF THE RENEWAL LICENSE  SECTION 12.3 – NON-EXCLUSIVITY OF REMEDY  SECTION 12.4 – NO WAIVER-CUMULATIVE REMEDIES  SECTION 12.5 – LIQUIDATED DAMAGES  ARTICLE 13  REPORTS, AUDITS AND PERFORMANCE TESTS  SECTION 13.1 – GENERAL  SECTION 13.2 – FINANCIAL REPORTS  SECTION 13.3 – CABLE SYSTEM INFORMATION  SECTION 13.4 – IN-HOUSE TELEPHONE REPORTS  SECTION 13.5 – SUBSCRIBER COMPLAINT REPORTS  SECTION 13.6 – ANNUAL PERFORMANCE TESTS  SECTION 13.7 – QUALITY OF SERVICE	56 57 57 58 58 60 60 60 60 61 61
SECTION 12.1 – NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE.  SECTION 12.2 – REVOCATION OF THE RENEWAL LICENSE.  SECTION 12.3 – NON-EXCLUSIVITY OF REMEDY.  SECTION 12.4 – NO WAIVER-CUMULATIVE REMEDIES.  SECTION 12.5 – LIQUIDATED DAMAGES.  ARTICLE 13  REPORTS, AUDITS AND PERFORMANCE TESTS.  SECTION 13.1 – GENERAL  SECTION 13.2 – FINANCIAL REPORTS.  SECTION 13.3 – CABLE SYSTEM INFORMATION  SECTION 13.4 – IN-HOUSE TELEPHONE REPORTS.  SECTION 13.5 – SUBSCRIBER COMPLAINT REPORTS.  SECTION 13.6 – ANNUAL PERFORMANCE TESTS.  SECTION 13.7 – QUALITY OF SERVICE  SECTION 13.8 – DUAL FILINGS  SECTION 13.9 – INVESTIGATION	560 57 57 58 58 58 60 60 60 60 60 61 61 61 61 61 62 62 62 62 62 62 62 62 62
SECTION 12.1 – NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE  SECTION 12.2 – REVOCATION OF THE RENEWAL LICENSE  SECTION 12.3 – NON-EXCLUSIVITY OF REMEDY  SECTION 12.4 – NO WAIVER-CUMULATIVE REMEDIES  SECTION 12.5 – LIQUIDATED DAMAGES  ARTICLE 13  REPORTS, AUDITS AND PERFORMANCE TESTS  SECTION 13.1 – GENERAL  SECTION 13.2 – FINANCIAL REPORTS  SECTION 13.3 – CABLE SYSTEM INFORMATION  SECTION 13.4 – IN-HOUSE TELEPHONE REPORTS  SECTION 13.5 – SUBSCRIBER COMPLAINT REPORTS  SECTION 13.6 – ANNUAL PERFORMANCE TESTS  SECTION 13.7 – QUALITY OF SERVICE	560 57 57 58 58 58 60 60 60 60 60 61 61 61 61 61 62 62 62 62 62 62 62 62 62
SECTION 12.1 – NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE  SECTION 12.2 – REVOCATION OF THE RENEWAL LICENSE  SECTION 12.3 – NON-EXCLUSIVITY OF REMEDY  SECTION 12.4 – NO WAIVER-CUMULATIVE REMEDIES  SECTION 12.5 – LIQUIDATED DAMAGES  ARTICLE 13  REPORTS, AUDITS AND PERFORMANCE TESTS  SECTION 13.1 – GENERAL  SECTION 13.2 – FINANCIAL REPORTS  SECTION 13.3 – CABLE SYSTEM INFORMATION  SECTION 13.4 – IN-HOUSE TELEPHONE REPORTS  SECTION 13.5 – SUBSCRIBER COMPLAINT REPORTS  SECTION 13.6 – ANNUAL PERFORMANCE TESTS  SECTION 13.7 – QUALITY OF SERVICE  SECTION 13.8 – DUAL FILINGS  SECTION 13.9 – INVESTIGATION	560 57 57 58 58 60 60 60 60 61 61 61 61 61
SECTION 12.1 – NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE SECTION 12.2 – REVOCATION OF THE RENEWAL LICENSE SECTION 12.3 – NON-EXCLUSIVITY OF REMEDY SECTION 12.4 – NO WAIVER-CUMULATIVE REMEDIES SECTION 12.5 – LIQUIDATED DAMAGES  ARTICLE 13  REPORTS, AUDITS AND PERFORMANCE TESTS  SECTION 13.1 – GENERAL SECTION 13.2 – FINANCIAL REPORTS SECTION 13.3 – CABLE SYSTEM INFORMATION SECTION 13.4 – IN-HOUSE TELEPHONE REPORTS. SECTION 13.5 – SUBSCRIBER COMPLAINT REPORTS SECTION 13.6 – ANNUAL PERFORMANCE TESTS SECTION 13.7 – QUALITY OF SERVICE SECTION 13.8 – DUAL FILINGS SECTION 13.9 – INVESTIGATION  ARTICLE 14  MISCELLANEOUS	56 57 57 58 58 60 60 60 60 61 61 61 61 62 62 63
SECTION 12.1 – NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE.  SECTION 12.2 – REVOCATION OF THE RENEWAL LICENSE.  SECTION 12.3 – NON-EXCLUSIVITY OF REMEDY.  SECTION 12.4 – NO WAIVER-CUMULATIVE REMEDIES.  SECTION 12.5 – LIQUIDATED DAMAGES.  ARTICLE 13  REPORTS, AUDITS AND PERFORMANCE TESTS.  SECTION 13.1 – GENERAL  SECTION 13.2 – FINANCIAL REPORTS.  SECTION 13.3 – CABLE SYSTEM INFORMATION  SECTION 13.4 – IN-HOUSE TELEPHONE REPORTS.  SECTION 13.5 – SUBSCRIBER COMPLAINT REPORTS.  SECTION 13.6 – ANNUAL PERFORMANCE TESTS.  SECTION 13.7 – QUALITY OF SERVICE  SECTION 13.8 – DUAL FILINGS  SECTION 13.9 – INVESTIGATION	56 57 57 58 58 60 60 60 60 61 61 61 61 62 62 63

SECTION 14.3 – ACTS OR OMISSIONS OF AFFILIATES	63
SECTION 14.3 – ACTS ON OMISSIONS OF ATTIEIATES	64
SECTION 14.4 – NOTICESSECTION 14.5 – RENEWAL LICENSE EXHIBITS	65
SECTION 14.5 – RENEWAL LICENSE EXHIBITS	65
SECTION 14.5 – ENTIRE AGREEMENT SECTION 14.7 – CAPTIONS	65
SECTION 14.7 – CAPTIONS	65
SECTION 14.8 – WARRANTIES SECTION 14.9 – NO RECOURSE AGAINST THE ISSUING AUTHORITY	66
SECTION 14.9 – NO RECOURSE AGAINST THE ISSUING AUTHORITY	
SECTION 14.10 – TOWN'S RIGHT OF INTERVENTION	66
SECTION 14.11 – TERM	67
SECTION 14.12 – APPLICABILITY OF RENEWAL LICENSE	67
SECTION 14.13 - NO THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES	
EXHIBIT 3.6	69
CABLE DROPS TO PUBLIC BUILDINGS	69
EXHIBIT 5.2	70
PROGRAMMING	70
EXHIBIT 9.3	71
FCC CUSTOMER SERVICE OBLIGATIONS	71
EXHIBIT 9.4	73
BILLING AND TERMINATION OF SERVICE	73

# RENEWAL LICENSE

#### INTRODUCTION

WHEREAS, Comcast of Massachusetts IIII, Inc., (hereinafter "Licensee"), is the duly authorized holder of a renewal license to operate a cable television system in the Town of Carlisle, Massachusetts (hereinafter the "Town"), said license having commenced on October 14, 2011;

WHEREAS, Licensee filed a written request for a renewal of its license by letter dated November 7, 2018 in conformity with the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 ("Cable Act");

WHEREAS, there has been an opportunity for public comment, as required by Section 626(h) of the Cable Act;

WHEREAS, the Issuing Authority has determined that the financial, legal, and technical ability of Licensee is reasonably sufficient to provide services, facilities, and equipment necessary to meet the future cable-related needs of the community, and desires to enter into this Renewal License with Licensee for the construction and continued operation of a cable system on the terms and conditions set forth herein; and

NOW THEREFORE, after due and full consideration, the Issuing Authority and Licensee agree that this Renewal License is issued upon the following terms and conditions:

#### **DEFINITIONS**

#### **SECTION 1.1 – DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this Renewal License, the following words, terms, phrases and their derivations shall have the meanings given herein, unless the context clearly requires a different meaning. When not inconsistent with the context, the masculine pronoun includes the feminine pronoun, words used in the present tense include the future tense, words in the plural number include the singular number and words in the singular number include the plural number. The word shall is always mandatory and not merely directory.

- (a) Access Shall mean the right or ability of any Carlisle resident and/or any Persons affiliated with a Carlisle institution to use designated Public, Education and Government ("PEG") access facilities and equipment and/or Access Channels of the Cable Television System, subject to the conditions and procedures established for such use by the Town and/or its designee.
- (b) Access Provider or Designated Access Provider shall mean the Person designated by the Issuing Authority for the purpose of operating and managing the use of Public, Educational and Governmental Access funding, equipment and channels on the cable television system in accordance with this Renewal License and 47 U.S.C. 531.
- (c) <u>Affiliate or Affiliated Person</u> When used in relation to any Person, shall mean another Person who owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, such Person.
- (d) <u>Basic Cable Service</u> shall mean the lowest tier of service which includes the retransmission of local television broadcast signals.
- (e) <u>Cable Act</u> shall mean the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, Public Law No. 98-549, 98 Stat. 2779 (1984), 47 U.S.C. 521 et. seq., amending the Communications Act of

1934, as further amended by the 1992 Cable Consumer Protection and Competition Act, Public Law No. 102-385 and the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Public Law No. 104-458, 110 Stat. 56 (1996) and as may be further amended.

- (f) Cable Television System or Cable System shall mean the facility owned, constructed, installed, operated and maintained by Licensee in the Town of Carlisle, consisting of a set of closed transmission paths and associated signal generation, reception, and control equipment that is designed to provide cable service which includes video programming and which is provided to multiple subscribers within a community, but such term does not include (a) a facility that serves only to retransmit the television signals of one or more television broadcast stations; (b) a facility that serves subscribers without using any public right-of-way; (c) a facility of a common carrier which is subject, in whole or in part, to the provisions of Title II of the Cable Act, except that such facility shall be considered a cable system (other than for purposes of section 621(c) of the Cable Act) to the extent such facility is used in the transmission of video programming directly to subscribers unless the extent of such use is solely to provide interactive on-demand services; (d) an open video system that complies with section 653 of this title, or (e) any facilities of any electric utility used solely for operating its electric utility systems.
- (g) <u>Cable Department or DTC</u> shall mean the Department of Telecommunications and Cable established pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 166A (M.G.L. Chapter 166A).
- (h) <u>Cable Service or Service</u> shall mean the one-way transmission to subscribers of (i) video programming, or (ii) other programming service, and subscriber interaction, if any, which is required for the selection or use of such video programming or other programming service.
- (i) <u>Drop</u> shall mean the coaxial cable or fiber that connects a home or building to the feeder cable of the Subscriber Network.
  - (j) Effective Date shall mean December 19, 2023.
- $\begin{tabular}{ll} (k) & \underline{FCC} shall mean the Federal Communications Commission or any successor governmental entity. \end{tabular}$

- (l) <u>Franchise Fee</u> shall mean the payments to be made by Licensee to the Issuing Authority, the Town of Carlisle and or any other governmental subdivision, or designated Access Provider, which shall have the meaning as set forth in Section 622(g) of the Cable Act.
- (m) Gross Annual Revenues Shall mean the revenues received by the Licensee and/or its Affiliates derived from the operation of the Cable System to provide Cable Service, accrued in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") in the United States, and shall include, without limitation: the distribution of any Cable Service over the Cable System; Basic Services monthly fees and all other Cable Service fees; any and all Cable Service fees and/or charges received from Subscribers; installation, reconnection, downgrade, upgrade and any similar charges; interest earned on all Subscriber fees and/or charges collected; all digital Cable Service revenues; fees paid on all Subscriber fees ("Fee-on Fee); all Commercial Subscriber Cable Service revenues (including bulk account revenues); Pay Cable, Premium Services and Pay-Per-View revenues; video on demand Cable Services; converter, remote control and other Cable Service-related equipment rentals and/or leases or sales; fees paid for channels designated for commercial use; home shopping revenues; and advertising revenues. In the event that an Affiliate and/or any other Person is responsible for advertising, advertising revenues for purposes herein shall be deemed to be the pro-rata portion of the advertising revenues accrued by such Affiliate or other Person for such Affiliate's or other Person's use of the Cable System for the carriage of advertising. Gross Annual Revenues shall also include the gross revenue of any other Person which is derived directly from or in connection with the operation of the Cable System to the extent that said revenue is derived through a means which has the effect of avoiding payment of Franchise Fees to the Town that would otherwise be paid herein. Gross Annual Revenues shall not include actual bad debt that is written off, consistent with GAAP; provided, however, that all or any part of any such actual bad debt that is written off, but subsequently collected, shall be included in Gross Annual Revenues in the period so collected.

- (n) <u>Headend</u> shall mean the electronic control center of the Cable System containing equipment that receives, amplifies, filters, processes and converts incoming signals for distribution over the Cable System.
- (o) <u>Issuing Authority</u> shall mean the Select Board of the Town of Carlisle, Massachusetts, or the lawful designee thereof.
- (p) <u>Licensee</u> shall mean Comcast of Massachusetts III, Inc., or any successor or transferee in accordance with the terms and conditions in this Renewal License.
- (q) <u>License Fee</u> shall mean the payments to be made by Licensee to the Town of Carlisle and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which shall have the meaning as set forth in M.G.L.c. 166A, § 9.
- (r) <u>Modulator</u> shall mean CATV modulator or equivalent device used for video signal transport.
- (s) Normal Business Hours shall mean those hours during which most similar businesses in Carlisle are open to serve customers. In all cases, Normal Business Hours must include some evening hours and at least one night per week and/or some weekend hours.
- (t) Normal Operating Conditions shall mean those service conditions which are within the control of the Licensee. Those conditions which are not within the control of the Licensee include, but are not limited to, natural disasters, public health emergencies, civil disturbances, power outages, telephone network outages, and severe or unusual weather conditions. Those conditions which are ordinarily with the control of the Licensee include, but are not limited to, special promotions, pay-per-view events, rate increases, regular peak or seasonal demand periods, and maintenance or upgrade of the Cable System.
- (u) <u>Outlet</u> shall mean an interior receptacle that connects a television set to the Cable Television System.
- (v) <u>Pay Cable or Premium Services</u> Shall mean programming delivered for a fee or charge to Subscribers on a per-channel or group-of-channels basis.

- (w) <u>Pay-Per-View</u>: shall mean programming delivered for a fee or charge to Subscribers on a per-program or per-event basis.
  - (x) <u>PEG</u> The acronym for "public, educational and governmental".
- (y) <u>PEG Access User</u> shall mean a Person utilizing the Cable Television System, including any related facilities for purposes of production and/or transmission of PEG Access Programming, as opposed to utilization solely as a Subscriber.
- (z) <u>PEG Access Programming</u> shall mean non-commercial programming produced by any Carlisle residents or organizations, schools and government entities and the use of designated facilities, equipment and/or channels of the Cable System in accordance with 47 U.S.C. 531 and this Renewal License.
- (aa) <u>Person</u> shall mean any natural person or any association, firm, partnership, joint venture, corporation, or other legally recognized entity, whether for-profit or not-for profit, but shall not mean the Issuing Authority.
- (ab) <u>Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) Access Channel</u> shall mean a video channel which the Licensee shall make available to the Town of Carlisle and designees of the Town of Carlisle, including Access users without charge, for the purpose of transmitting non-commercial programming by members of the public, Town departments and agencies, public schools, educational, institutional and similar organizations.
- (ac) <u>Public Way</u> shall mean the surface of, and the space above and below, any public street, highway, freeway, bridge, land path, alley, court, boulevard, sidewalk, way, lane, public way, drive, circle or other public right-of-way, including, but not limited to, public utility easements, dedicated utility strips, or rights-of-way dedicated for compatible uses and any temporary or permanent fixtures or improvements located thereon now or hereafter held by the Issuing Authority in the Town of Carlisle for compatible uses, which shall entitle Licensee to the use thereof for the purpose of installing, operating, repairing, and maintaining the Cable System. Public Way shall also mean any easement now or hereafter held by the Issuing Authority within the Town of Carlisle for the purpose of public travel, or for utility or public service use dedicated for compatible uses,

and shall include other easements or rights-of-way as shall within their proper use and meaning entitle Licensee to the use thereof for the purposes of installing, operating, and maintaining Licensee's Cable System over poles, wires, cables, conductors, ducts, conduits, vaults, manholes, amplifiers, appliances, attachments, and other property as may be ordinarily necessary and pertinent to the Cable System. Reference herein to "Public Way" or "Street" shall not be construed to be a representation or guarantee by the Town that its property rights are sufficient to permit its use for any purpose, or that the Licensee shall gain or be permitted to exercise any rights to use property in the Town greater than those already possessed by the Town.

- (ad) <u>Public Buildings</u> shall mean those buildings owned or leased by the Issuing Authority for municipal government purposes, and shall not include buildings owned by Issuing Authority but leased to third parties or buildings such as storage facilities at which government employees are not regularly stationed.
- (ae) Renewal License or License shall mean this Agreement and any amendments or modifications in accordance with the terms herein.
- (af) <u>Standard Definition (SD) PEG Access Channels</u> shall mean a PEG Access Channel in the standard definition display format for digital television transmissions.
- (ag) <u>Standard Installation</u> shall mean an installation using a Drop of up to two hundred and fifty feet (250') aerial or one hundred and fifty fee (150') underground.
- (ah) <u>Subscriber</u> shall mean a Person who lawfully receives Cable Service with Licensee's express permission.
- (ai) <u>Subscriber Network</u> shall mean the trunk and feeder signal distribution network over which video and audio signals are transmitted to Subscribers.
  - (aj) Town shall mean the Town of Carlisle, Massachusetts.
- (ak) <u>Trunk and Distribution System</u> shall mean that portion of the Cable System for the delivery of Cable Services, but not including Drop Cable(s) to Subscriber's residences.

Renewal Cable Television License Granted By The Town of Carlisle, MA Renewal Term: December 19, 2023 – December 18, 2033

(al) <u>Video Programming or Programming</u> – shall mean the programming provided by, or generally considered comparable to programming provided by, a television broadcast station as set forth in Section 522(20) of Title 47 of the United States Code.

#### **GRANT OF RENEWAL LICENSE**

#### **SECTION 2.1 - GRANT OF RENEWAL LICENSE**

- (a) Pursuant to the authority of M.G.L. c. 166A and the Cable Act and subject to the terms and conditions herein, the Issuing Authority hereby grants a non-exclusive Renewal License to Comcast of Massachusetts III, Inc., authorizing and permitting Licensee to construct, upgrade, install, operate and maintain a Cable Television System in the Public Way within the municipal limits of the Town. Nothing in this license shall be construed to prohibit Licensee from offering any service over its Cable System that is not prohibited by federal or state law.
- (b) This Renewal License is granted under and in compliance with the Cable Act and M.G.L.c. 166A, and in compliance with all rules and regulations of the FCC and the DTC in force and effect during the period for which this Renewal License is granted.

#### SECTION 2.2 - TERM: NON-EXCLUSIVITY

This License of this non-exclusive Renewal License shall be for a period of ten (10) years, commencing on December 19, 2023 and shall expire at midnight on December 18, 2033.

#### **SECTION 2.3 - RENEWAL**

(a) In accordance with the provisions of federal law, M.G.L. c. 166A, § 13 and applicable regulations, this Renewal License shall be subject to additional renewals for the periods not to exceed ten (10) years or such other periods as allowed by law and shall be upon mutual written agreement by Licensee and the Issuing Authority with such modified or additional terms as Licensee and the Issuing Authority may agree.

# **SECTION 2.4 - RESERVATION OF AUTHORITY**

Nothing in this Renewal License shall (a) abrogate the right of the Issuing Authority to perform any public works or public improvements of any description; (b) be construed as a waiver of any codes or bylaws/regulations of general applicability and not specific to the Cable Television System, Licensee, or this License; or (c) be construed as a waiver or release of the rights of the Issuing Authority in and to the Public Ways. Any conflict between the terms of this Renewal License and any present or future exercise of the municipality's police and regulatory powers shall be resolved by a court of appropriate jurisdiction.

### **SECTION 2.5 - NON-EXCLUSIVITY OF LICENSE**

- (a) This Renewal License shall not affect the right of the Issuing Authority to grant to any other Person a license or right to occupy or use the Public Ways or streets, or portions thereof, for the construction, upgrade, installation, operation or maintenance of a Cable Television System within the Town of Carlisle; or the right of the Issuing Authority to permit the use of the Public Ways and places of the Town for any purpose(s) whatsoever. The Licensee hereby acknowledges the Issuing Authority's right to make such grants and permit such uses.
- (b) The grant of any additional cable television license(s) shall be at the sole discretion of the Issuing Authority.
- (i) In the event that the Licensee believes that any additional cable television license(s) have been granted on terms and conditions more favorable or less burdensome than those contained in this Renewal License, the Licensee may request, in writing, that the Issuing Authority convene a public hearing on that issue. Along with said written request, the Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority with written reasons for its belief. At the public hearing, the Issuing Authority shall afford the Licensee an opportunity to demonstrate that any such additional cable television license(s) are on terms more favorable or less burdensome than those contained in this Renewal License. The Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority with such financial or other relevant information as is requested.

- (ii) Should the Licensee demonstrate that any such additional cable television license(s) have been granted on terms and conditions more favorable or less burdensome than those contained in this Renewal License, the Issuing Authority shall negotiate, in good faith, equitable amendments to this Renewal License within a reasonable time.
- (c) The issuance of additional license(s) shall be subject to applicable federal law(s), and M.G.L. Chapter 166A and applicable regulations promulgated thereunder.
- (d) In the event an application for a new cable television license is filed with the Issuing Authority, proposing to serve the Town, in whole or in part, the Issuing Authority shall serve a copy of such application upon the Licensee by certified mail or via nationally recognized overnight courier services within a reasonable time thereafter.
- (e) In the event that the Licensee believes that in the future another Licensee which has been granted a cable television license in the Town, has been provided relief by the Issuing Authority from a material obligation(s) of its license, which may include amendments to the license, that causes said other cable television license to be more favorable or less burdensome than this Renewal License, the Licensee may request, in writing, that the Issuing Authority convene a public hearing on that issue. Along with said written request, the Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority with written reasons for its belief. The Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority with such financial or other relevant information as is requested. At the public hearing, the Issuing Authority shall afford the Licensee an opportunity to demonstrate that such relief causes said other cable license to be favorable or less burdensome than this Renewal License. Should the Licensee demonstrate that any such relief causes said other cable television license to be more favorable or less burdensome than the Renewal License, the Issuing Authority shall consider and negotiate, in good faith, equitable amendments to this Renewal License.

#### SYSTEM SPECIFICATIONS AND CONSTRUCTION

#### **SECTION 3.1 – AREA TO BE SERVED**

- (a) Licensee shall upon request make Cable Service available to every residential dwelling unit within the Town, subject to the line extension policy of Section 3.2 below, provided that the Licensee is able to obtain any necessary easements, permits and/or permission from owners of property and multiple dwelling units. The Licensee shall make its best efforts to obtain any necessary easements, permits and/or permission from owners of property in Town to make Cable Service available.
- (b) For non-Standard Installations Licensee shall offer said Service within ninety (90) days of a Subscriber requesting such for aerial installations and one hundred eighty (180) days, weather permitting, of a Subscriber requesting such for underground installations.

#### **SECTION 3.2 – LINE EXTENSION POLICY**

Consistent with Section 3.1, the Cable System shall be extended, at the Licensee's sole cost and expense (except as provided in Section 3.4), to any and all areas of the Town Containing at least fifteen (15) dwelling units or the equivalent per mile. The Licensee shall promptly apply for all necessary permits. Said Cable Services shall be made available and fully activated to requesting dwelling units no later than ninety (90) days after all necessary permits are obtained for aerial installations and one hundred eighty (180) days after all necessary permits are obtained for underground installations, subject to Section 14.2, Force Majeure.

#### SECTION 3.3- RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISIONS

Subject to the provisions of this Article 3 and provided Licensee has at least ninety (90) days' prior written notice concerning the opening of residential subdivision trenching, or of the

Renewal Term: December 19, 2023 - December 18, 2033

installation of conduit for the location of utilities, it may install its cable in such trenching or conduits or seek permission to utilize alternative trenching or conduits within a comparable time frame. If a substantial quantity of cable is required for a large subdivision and said quantity is not in stock, Licensee shall be allowed additional time for said installation. The Issuing Authority, or its designee, shall exercise reasonable efforts to have the Planning Board and developers give timely written notice of trenching and underground construction to Licensee. Developer shall be responsible for the digging and back-filling of all trenches.

**SECTION 3.4 – INSTALLATION CHARGES** 

Any dwelling unit within two hundred and fifty (250') feet aerial or two hundred and fifty (250') of available underground conduit from the feeder cable shall be entitled to a Standard Installation rate, unless the sub-surface of an underground installation is a hard surface or requires boring through rock or a similar hard surface (i.e. concrete, asphalt, etc.). All other installations are considered non-standard installations. For aerial installations and underground installations in available conduit of more than two hundred and fifty feet (250'), the first two hundred and fifty feet (250') shall be at the Standard Installation rate. For underground installations of more than one hundred and fifty feet (150') where there is no available conduit, the first one hundred and fifty feet (150') shall be at the Standard Installation rate. All non-standard installations shall be provided at a rate established by the Licensee in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

**SECTION 3.5 – SUBSCRIBER NETWORK** 

Licensee shall own, operate and maintain the Cable Television System, to a minimum bandwidth of 750MHz to Carlisle Subscribers.

18

# SECTION 3.6 – LOCATION OF THE CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM

The Licensee shall own, operate and maintain the Cable Television System within the Town. Poles, towers and other obstructions shall be erected so as not to interfere with vehicular or pedestrian traffic over Public Ways. The erection and location of all poles, towers and other obstructions shall be in accordance with all applicable and legally enforceable state and local laws and regulations.

# SECTION 3.7 - FREE DROPS AND MONTHLY SERVICE TO PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND SCHOOLS

The Licensee shall provide a Cable Drop, Outlet and Basic Service along its cable routes to public schools, police and fire stations, public libraries, and other public buildings designated in writing by the Issuing Authority, including those listed in Exhibit 3.6, attached hereto and made a part hereof. If the Licensee intends to charge for the Cable Drop(s), Outlet(s) required herein or Basic Service, the parties shall adhere to the procedures and timelines in accordance with the FCC's 2019 Third Report and Order in the Matter of Implementation of Section 621 of the Cable Act (the "621 Order"), as such 621 Order may be amended from time to time. If Licensee charges for such Cable Drop(s), Outlet(s) or Basic Service, Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority with evidence of its itemized marginal costs.

# SECTION 3.8 - PARENTAL CONTROL CAPABILITY

- (a) Pursuant to applicable law, upon request, and at no separate, additional charge, Licensee shall provide Subscribers with the capability to control the reception of any channel on the Cable System.
- (b) The Issuing Authority acknowledges that the parental control capability may be part of a converter box and Licensee may charge Subscriber for use of said box.

# **SECTION 3.9 - EMERGENCY ALERT OVERRIDE CAPACITY**

Licensee shall comply with the FCC's Emergency Alert System ("EAS") regulations and any applicable laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in order that emergency messages are distributed over the Cable System.

# **SECTION 3.10 - SYSTEM TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

The Cable System shall conform to the FCC technical specifications, including 47 CFR 76.05 which are incorporated herein by reference. At all times throughout the Renewal License, the Licensee shall meet all applicable FCC technical standards.

#### TECHNOLOGICAL AND SAFETY STANDARDS

#### **SECTION 4.1 - SYSTEM MAINTENANCE**

- (a) In installing, operating and maintaining equipment, cable and wires, Licensee shall avoid damage and injury to trees, structures and improvements in and along the routes authorized by the Issuing Authority, except as may be approved by the Issuing Authority if required for the proper installation, operation and maintenance of such equipment, cable and wires.
- (b) The construction, maintenance and operation of the Cable System for which this Renewal License is granted shall be done in conformance with all applicable local, state and federal laws, bylaws, codes and regulations of general applicability and the rules and regulations of the FCC as the same exist or as same may be hereafter changed or amended.
- (c) Operating and maintenance personnel shall be trained in the use of all safety equipment and the safe operation of vehicles and equipment. Licensee shall install and maintain its equipment, cable and wires in such a manner as shall not interfere with any installations of the Town or any public utility serving the Town.
- (d) All structures and all equipment, cable and wires in, over, under, and upon streets, sidewalks, alleys, and public rights of ways of the Town, wherever situated or located shall at all times be kept and maintained in a safe and suitable condition and in good order and repair.

# **SECTION 4.2 - REPAIRS AND RESTORATION**

Whenever Licensee takes up or disturbs any pavement, sidewalk or other improvement of any public right of way or public place, the same shall be replaced and the surface restored in as good condition as possible as before entry as soon as practicable. If Licensee fails to make such restoration within a reasonable time, the Issuing Authority may fix a reasonable time for such restoration and repairs, and shall notify Licensee in writing of the restoration and repairs required

and the time fixed for the performance thereof. Upon failure of Licensee to comply within the time specified, the Issuing Authority may cause proper restoration and repairs to be made and the expense of such work shall be paid by Licensee upon written demand by the Issuing Authority. However, prior to such repair or restoration the Town should submit a written estimate to Licensee of the

# **SECTION 4.3 – UNDERGROUND FACILITIES**

actual cost of said repair or restoration.

- (a) In the areas of the Town in which telephone lines and electric utility lines are currently, or in the future specified to be, underground, whether required by law or not, all of the Licensee's lines, cables and wires shall be underground. At such time as these facilities are placed underground by the telephone and electric utility companies, the Licensee shall likewise place its facilities underground at no cost to the Town.
- (b) Pursuant to Section 4.3(a) above, underground cable lines shall be placed beneath the pavement sub-grade in compliance with applicable Town by-laws, rules, regulations and/or standards. It is the policy of the Town that existing poles for electric and communication purposes be utilized wherever possible and that underground installation is preferable to the placement of additional poles.
- (c) Except as provided for in paragraph (a) herein, in the event that the Licensee is required to place existing aerial plant underground, the Licensee reserves its right to pass those costs through to Subscribers if and to the extent allowed by applicable law. In the event the Town develops an undergrounding project for which it plans to utilize Town funds to reimburse utilities for the cost of said undergrounding, its shall notify the Licensee of such and discuss with the Licensee how the Licensee may be eligible for such funding consistent with equitable principles and applicable law.

(d) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to require the Licensee to construct, operate, or maintain underground any ground-mounted appurtenances such as customer taps, line extenders, system passive devices, amplifiers, power supplies, pedestals, or other related equipment.

#### **SECTION 4.4 – TREE TRIMMING**

Subject to the approval of the Tree Warden, Licensee shall have authority to trim trees upon and overhanging public streets, alleys, sidewalks and ways and places of the Town so as to prevent the branches of such trees from coming in contact with the wires, cables and equipment of Licensee, in accordance with MGL c. 87 and any Town bylaws/ordinances and regulations.

#### **SECTION 4.5 – LOCATION OF PLANT**

Upon written request, the Licensee shall work with the Issuing Authority in good faith to identify and provide to the Issuing Authority strand maps and other information in Licensee's possession, which alone or in combination shall be sufficient to show the location of the Cable System plant installed and identify unserviceable properties in the Town. Upon written request said strand maps shall also be provided in electronic format if they exist in said electronic format. The Licensee shall not be required to provide a particular type of electronic format which is different from the electronic format the Licensee maintains.

#### **SECTION 4.6 – BUILDING MOVES**

(a) In accordance with applicable laws, Licensee shall, upon the written request of any person holding a building moving permit issued by the Town, temporarily raise or lower its wires to permit the moving of the building(s). Licensee shall be given not less than thirty (30) days' advance written notice to arrange for such temporary wire changes. The cost to raise or lower wires shall be borne by the Person(s) holding the building move permit, unless otherwise required by applicable law or regulation.

(b) Licensee shall have the right to reimbursement under any applicable insurance or government program for reimbursement.

#### **SECTION 4.7 – DIG SAFE**

Licensee shall comply with all applicable "dig safe" provisions pursuant to M.G.L. c. 82, §40.

# SECTION 4.8 – DISCONNECTION AND RELOCATION

- (a) Licensee shall, at its sole cost and expense, protect, support, temporarily disconnect, relocate in the same street, or other Public Right of Ways, or remove from any street or any other Public Ways and places, any of its property as required by the Issuing Authority or its designee by reason of traffic conditions, public safety, street construction, change or establishment of street grade, or the construction of any public improvement or structure by any Town department acting in a governmental capacity.
- (b) In requiring Licensee to protect, support, temporarily disconnect, relocate or remove any portion of its property, the Issuing Authority shall treat Licensee the same as, and require no more of Licensee, than any other similarly situated utility.
- (c) Licensee shall have the right to reimbursement of project costs under any applicable insurance or government program for reimbursement. All cable operators and public or municipal utility companies shall be treated alike if reimbursed for such costs by the Town. If funds are not reimbursed, Licensee reserves the right to pass its costs through to Subscribers.

# SECTION 4.9 – EMERGENCY REMOVAL OF PLANT

(a) If, at any time, in case of fire or disaster in the Town, it shall be necessary in the reasonable judgment of the Town to cut or move any of the wires, cable or equipment of the Cable Television System, the Town shall have the right to do so without cost or liability.

(b) The Licensee shall have the right to seek reimbursement under any applicable government program for reimbursement. All cable operators and public or municipal utility companies shall be treated alike if reimbursed for such costs by the Town. If funds are not reimbursed, Licensee reserves the right to pass its costs through to Subscribers.

# **SECTION 4.10 – RIGHT TO INSPECTION**

The Issuing Authority and/or its designee(s) shall have the right, at its sole cost and expense, to inspect the plant and equipment of the Licensee in the Town at reasonable times and under reasonable circumstances. The Licensee shall fully cooperate in such inspections; provided, however, that such inspections are reasonable and do not interfere with the operation or the performance of the facilities of the Cable System, and that such inspections are conducted after reasonable written notice to the Licensee. The Licensee shall have the right to have a representative present at Licensee's sole cost and expense during such inspections.

### **SECTION 4.11 – PRIVATE PROPERTY**

The Licensee shall be subject to all laws, by-laws and/or regulations regarding private property in the course of constructing, upgrading, installing, operating and maintaining the Cable Television System in the Town. The Licensee shall at its sole cost and expense, promptly repair or replace all private property, real and personal, damaged or destroyed as a result of the construction, installation, operation or maintenance of the Cable System.

#### **SECTION 4.12 – PEDESTALS**

In any cases in which pedestals housing active and passive devices are to be utilized, in Town Public Ways or within the Town public lay-out, such equipment must be installed in accordance with applicable Town, regulations and/or by-laws.

# **SECTION 4.13 – SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS**

Except where there exists an emergency necessitating a more expeditious procedure, the Licensee may interrupt Service for the purpose of non-routine repairing, constructing or testing the Cable Television System only during periods of minimum use and, when practical, only after a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours' notice to all affected Subscribers.

#### **PROGRAMMING**

#### **SECTION 5.1 – BASIC CABLE SERVICE**

Licensee shall make available a Basic Cable Service tier to all Subscribers in the Town pursuant to applicable statute or regulation.

#### **SECTION 5.2 – PROGRAMMING**

- (a) Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 544, Licensee shall maintain the mix, quality and broad categories of Video Programming as set forth in **Exhibit 5.2**. Pursuant and subject to federal law, all Video Programming decisions, excluding PEG Access Programming, are at the sole discretion of Licensee.
- (b) Licensee shall comply with 76.1603(c)(3)(i)(b) of the FCC Rules and Regulations as well as 207 CMR 10.02 of the Massachusetts Cable Television Division Rules and Regulations regarding notice of programming changes.

#### **SECTION 5.3 – REMOTE CONTROLS**

Licensee shall allow Subscribers to purchase remote control devices which are compatible with the converter installed by Licensee, if any, and allow the use of remotes. Licensee takes no responsibility for changes in its equipment or services that might render inoperable the remote control devices acquired by Subscribers.

#### **SECTION 5.4 – STEREO TV TRANSMISSIONS**

All broadcast signals that are transmitted to Licensee's headend in stereo shall be transmitted in stereo to Subscribers.

# SECTION 5.5 - CABLE CHANNELS FOR COMMERCIAL USE

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 532 (Section 624 of the Cable Act), Licensee shall make available channel capacity for commercial use by persons unaffiliated with Licensee. Rates for use of commercial access channels shall be negotiated between Licensee and the commercial user in accordance with federal law. Licensee shall have no editorial control over the content of programming on leased access channels and is not subject to any liability therefrom.

#### **SECTION 5.6 – CONTINUITY OF SERVICES**

It shall be the right of all Subscribers to receive Cable Service insofar as Subscribers honor their financial and other obligations to the Licensee; provided, however, that the Licensee shall have no obligation to provide Cable Service to any Person who or which the Licensee has a reasonable basis to believe is utilizing an unauthorized converter and/or is otherwise obtaining any Cable Service without required payment thereof. The Licensee shall ensure that all Subscribers receive continuous, uninterrupted Cable Service, except for necessary Cable Service interruptions or as a result of Cable System or equipment failures. When necessary, if non-routine Cable Service interruptions can be anticipated, the Licensee shall notify Subscribers of such interruption(s) in advance if practical.

# SECTION 5.7 – COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS

The Licensee shall make Cable Service available to any commercial establishments in the Town provided that said establishment(s) agrees to pay for installation, any required line extension, and monthly subscription costs as established by the Licensee.

#### PEG ACCESS CHANNEL(S) AND SUPPORT

#### **SECTION 6.1 – PEG ACCESS CHANNEL(S)**

- (a) Use of channel capacity for Public, Educational and Governmental ("PEG") Access shall be provided in accordance with federal law, 47 U.S.C. 531, and as further set forth below. Licensee does not relinquish its ownership of or ultimate right of control over a channel by designating it for PEG use. A PEG Access User whether an individual, educational or governmental user acquires no property or other interest by virtue of the use of a channel so designated. The PEG Access channels shall, other than provided in Section 6.1(c) below, be used exclusively as and/or for PEG Access channels and PEG Access Programming. The Licensee shall not exercise editorial control over any public, educational, or governmental use of channel capacity, except to the extent allowed pursuant to applicable law. The Issuing Authority and/or its designee shall be responsible for developing, implementing, interpreting and enforcing rules for the PEG Access Channel and PEG Access operations in accordance with applicable law. The PEG Channels shall be provided on the Basic Cable Service tier or such other most subscribed tier of Cable Service as maybe offered by the Licensee in accordance with applicable law but may be placed on a different tier upon mutual agreement by the Issuing Authority and the Licensee.
- (b) Licensee shall continue to provide the existing (3) Public, Educational, and Government ("PEG") Access channels to the Issuing Authority. Subject to the requirements of Section 6.3(b), the Licensee shall upgrade two of the PEG Access Channels to HD.
- (c) For purposes of this License, a high definition ("HD") signal refers to a television signal delivering picture resolution of either 720p or greater, or such other resolution in the same range that Licensee commonly utilizes for other similar programming channels.
- (d) In the event the Issuing Authority, its designee(s) or other PEG Access User elects not to program a PEG Access Channel for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days or more, the

Licensee may thereafter use such channel capacity that is not being used for PEG Access purposes, subject to the right of the Issuing Authority to reclaim said channel capacity for its PEG Access use or the PEG Access use of its designee(s) or other Access users.

- (e) The Licensee shall not move or otherwise relocate the channel locations of the PEG Access Channels, referenced in paragraph (a) above, without the advance, written notice of not less than sixty (60) days to the Issuing Authority and/or its designee(s).
- (f) Said PEG Access Channels shall be used to transmit PEG Access Programming to Subscribers without charge to the Town, the PEG Access Designee, the public schools, any organizations serving the Town.
- (g) The PEG Access Channels may not be used to cablecast for-profit or commercial programs.
- (h) The Licensee shall monitor the PEG Access Channels for technical quality and shall ensure that signal quality is maintained to FCC Technical specification commensurate with those which apply to the Cable system's commercial channels. However, that the Licensee is not responsible for the production quality of PEG Access Programming productions.

#### **SECTION 6.2 – PEG ACCESS PROVIDER**

- (a) The Town and/or an Access Provider, as designated by the Issuing Authority, shall, provide services to PEG Access users and the Town as follows:
  - (1) Schedule, operate and program the PEG Access channels provided in accordance with Section 6.1, supra;
  - (2) Manage the annual funding, pursuant to Section 6.4 below;
  - (3) Purchase, maintain and/or lease equipment, with the funds allocated for such purposes in Section 6.5 below;
  - (4) Conduct training programs in the skills necessary to produce PEG Access Programming;
  - (5) Provide technical assistance and production services to PEG Access users;

- (6) Establish rules, procedures and guidelines for use of the PEG Access Channels;
- (7) Provide publicity, fundraising, outreach, referral and other support services to PEG Access users;
- (8) Assist users in the production of PEG Access Programming of interest to Subscribers and issues, events and activities; and
- (9) Accomplish such other tasks relating to the operation, scheduling and/or management of the PEG Access Channels, facilities and equipment as appropriate and necessary.

# **SECTION 6.3 – PEG ACCESS CABLECASTING**

- (a) In order that PEG Access Programming can be cablecast over Licensee's Subscriber Network downstream PEG Access Channels, all PEG Access Programming originating or aggregated at the Carlisle Town Hall (66 Westford Street) and Concord-Carlisle Regional High School shall be transmitted to the license-owned Headend or hub-site on a Licensee-provided and owned fiber-based return line made available by the Licensee without charge to the Town or its Access Provider for their use. At Licensee-owned Headend, said PEG Access Programming shall be retransmitted in the downstream direction on the appropriate Licensee-owned Subscriber Network downstream PEG Access Channels.
- (b) At no cost to the Town, Licensee shall within eighteen (18) months of the Effective Date of this License provide, install, and operate HD/SDI equipment and any other electronic, switching, or other necessary equipment at the Carlisle Town Hall and at the aggregation location in Concord currently located at the Concord-Carlisle Regional High School and at Licensee's hubsite or Headend in order to switch upstream signals carrying PEG Access Programming to the designated Licensee-owned Subscriber Network and then on the downstream PEG Access Channels, without charge to the Town or its Access Provider. The Licensee shall own, maintain, repair and/or if necessary, replace, said equipment for the term of this Renewal License. Upon

completion of any necessary upgrades, Licensee shall make two PEG Access channels available in HD format and one channel available in SD.

The Town or its PEG Access Designee shall be responsible for providing the HD PEG Channel signal in a HD format compatible with Licensee's equipment in the Cable System at the applicable demarcation point.

The Town acknowledges that not every Subscriber may be able to view HD PEG Access Programming on every TV, and additional costs may be involved in the reception of HD programming.

Licensee may implement HD carriage of the PEG Channels in any manner (including selection of compression, utilization of IP (Internet Protocol), or other processing characteristics) that produce a signal for the viewer that is substantially equivalent to commercial HD channels on the Cable System.

The Licensee shall have the right to reclaim the Standard Definition (SD) PEG Access Channel upon activation of the HD channel.

- (c) The Licensee shall be responsible for all necessary inspections and performance tests of the fiber-based video return line in accordance with applicable law and regulation for a Cable System. The Licensee shall provide, maintain, operate and repair all equipment necessary to receive and transmit PEG Access programming and PEG Access Channels as described in Section 6.3 above, including necessary transmission, switching, and/or processing equipment located at its Carlisle Town Hall, Concord Carlisle Regional High school, and its hub-site and/or headend in order to switch upstream signals carrying PEG Access Programming for the PEG Access video return aggregation points to the designated Licensee-owned Subscriber Network downstréam PEG Access Channels in high definition.
- (d) Licensee shall not be required to carry a PEG Channel in a higher quality format than that of the Channel signal delivered to the Licensee, but Licensee shall not implement a change in

the method of delivery of PEG Channels that results in a material degradation of signal quality or impairment of viewer reception of PEG Channels, provided that this requirement shall not prohibit Licensee from implementing new technologies also utilized for commercial channels carried on its Cable System. Licensee shall meet or exceed FCC signal quality standards when offering PEG Channels on its Cable system and shall continue to comply with closed captioning pass-through requirement. There shall be no significant deterioration in a PEG Channel signal from the point of origination upstream to the points of reception (hub or Headend) or downstream to the subscriber on the Cable System

- (e) There shall be no charge to the Town, its Issuing Authority, the Access Provider or Access users for the provision of PEG Access origination, channels, video return or cablecasting, as required by this Section 6.
- (f) The Licensee and Issuing Authority shall work together in good faith with respect to any difficulties that arise regarding the transmission, switching, and/or cablecasting of PEG Access Programming.

#### **SECTION 6.4 – ANNUAL SUPPORT**

(a) Licensee shall provide a Franchise Fee to the Issuing Authority, or its designee, for PEG Access purposes, equal to five percent (5%) of its Gross Annual Revenues, less applicable License Fees and assessments from any state or other governmental agencies, to take effect on the effective date of this License. Said Franchise Fee shall be used for salaries, operating and other expenses related to PEG Access programming operations. Said five percent (5%) Franchise Fee shall be made to the Issuing Authority, or its designee, on a quarterly basis. Licensee shall provide quarterly payments each May 15th, August 15th, November 15th and February 15th based on revenues from the previous calendar quarter. The first such quarterly 5% Franchise Fee shall be made on or before February 15, 2024 for the period of December 19, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

- (b) The Licensee shall file with each of the payments pursuant to this Section 6.4, a statement certified by a duly authorized financial representative of the Licensee documenting, in reasonable detail, the Gross Annual Revenue as defined in Section 1.1(m), for the first payment period (referenced in Section 6.4(b) above), and thereafter for each three (3) month reporting period. Said statement shall list all of the general categories comprising Gross Annual Revenues as defined in Section 1.1(m).
- (c) In the event that payments required to be made herein by the Licensee are not tendered on or before the dates fixed herein, interest due on such required payments shall accrue and be paid to the Issuing Authority or its designee from the date due at the rate of two percent (2%) above Prime Rate at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston or its successor.

#### SECTION 6.5 – CAPITAL PAYMENTS

- (a) The Licensee shall provide capital funding to the Issuing Authority and/or its designee, as directed by the Issuing Authority, for PEG Access equipment and/or facilities, as follows: (i) Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000) paid by the Licensee as follows:
  - i. Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000) within forty-five (45) days of the Effective Date of this Renewal License;
  - ii. Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000) on or before July 30, 2024;
  - iii. Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000) on or before July 30, 2025;
  - iv. Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000) on or before July 30, 2026;
  - v. Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000) on or before July 30, 2027;
  - vi. Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000) on or before July 30, 2028;
  - vii. Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000) on or before July 30, 2029;
  - viii. Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000) on or before July 30, 2030;
  - ix. Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000) on or before July 30, 2031;
  - x. Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000) on or before July 30, 2032.

Additionally, (ii) a payment of one-half percent (0.5%) of Gross Annual Revenues, as defined in Section 1.1 above, paid quarterly by the Licensee at the same time as Franchise Fee payments, according to Section 6.4(a) above. The Town and/or the Access Provider shall own all PEG Access equipment purchased with funding pursuant to this Section 6.5. The Licensee shall have no obligation for maintenance, repair or replacement of such equipment.

(b) In the event that payments required to be made herein by the Licensee are not tendered on or before the dates fixed herein, interest due on such required payments shall accrue and be paid to the Issuing Authority or its designee from the date due at two percent (2%) above the Prime Rate at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston or its successor. Any payment made pursuant to this Section 6.5 shall be fall within the exclusion to the term "franchise fee" for requirements pursuant to Section 622(g)(2)(C) of the Cable Act.

# SECTION 6.6 - NON-COMMERCIAL PROGRAMMING

The Issuing Authority and its designee(s) shall not use the designated PEG access channels, equipment, or other facilities to provide for-profit commercial Programming. Nothing in this Section 6.6 shall prohibit the Issuing Authority or its designee from having memberships, sponsorships, underwriting or acknowledgements (such as the underwriting and acknowledgments displayed by the Public Broadcasting System), to the extent not otherwise prohibited by applicable law or regulations.

# SECTION 6.7 – NAVIGATION TO PEG CHANNELS AND ELECTRONIC PROGRAMMING GUIDE

Licensee agrees that if it utilizes any navigation interfaces under its control on its Cable System for all Channels, the PEG Channels shall be treated in a non-discriminatory fashion consistent so that Subscribers will have ready access to PEG Channels. Licensee will be responsible for providing the designations and instructions necessary for the PEG Channels to appear on the EPG. The Town acknowledges that the Grantee is not responsible for operations of the EPG provider.

# SECTION 6.8 – INTERCONNECTION WITH COMPETING CABLE LICENSE

In the event a license is issued by the Issuing Authority to a competing Licensee, the Issuing Authority shall not authorize or require the competing licensee to connect its facilities or cable system to Licensee's current Cable System for purposes of obtaining PEG Access Programming from the Licensee's PEG access channels without the prior written consent of Licensee.

#### FRANCHISE FEES AND LICENSE FEES

### **SECTION 7.1 – LICENSE FEE PAYMENTS**

(a) Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 166A, Section 9, the Licensee shall pay to the Town, throughout the term of this Renewal License, a License Fee equal to the maximum allowable by law, per Subscriber served as of the last day of the preceding calendar year, payable on or before March 15<sup>th</sup> of the said year. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 166A, § 9, this fee is currently fifty cents (\$.50) per Subscriber. The number of Subscribers, for purposes of this Section 7.1, shall be calculated in compliance with applicable law(s).

### **SECTION 7.2 – FRANCHISE FEE**

In accordance with Section 622(b) of the Cable Act, the Licensee shall not be liable for a total Franchise Fee pursuant to this Renewal License in excess of five percent (5%) of its Gross Annual Revenues. Said five percent (5%) shall include the following: (i) the PEG Access support pursuant to Section 6.4, above; and (ii) any License Fee(s) that may be payable to the Town and to the State pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 166A, Section 9, and Section 7.1 above, provided that said five percent (5%) shall not include the PEG Access Capital Funding pursuant to Section 6.5 above and any other exclusion to the definition of Franchise Fee provided in Section 622 (g)(2) of the Cable Act.

#### **SECTION 7.3 – PAYMENT**

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 166A, Section 9, the License Fees shall be paid annually to the Town throughout the term of this Renewal License, no later than March 15th of each year, unless provided for otherwise under applicable law.

# SECTION 7.4 – OTHER PAYMENT OBLIGATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

- (a) The Franchise Fee and License Fee payments shall be in addition to and shall not constitute an offset or credit against any and all taxes or other fees or charges of general applicability which Licensee or any Affiliated Person shall be required to pay to the Town, or to any state or federal agency or authority, as required herein or by law; the payment of said taxes, fees or charges shall not constitute a credit or offset against the Franchise Fee and License Fee payments which shall be a separate and distinct obligation of the Licensee and each Affiliated Person. The Licensee herein agrees that no such taxes, fees or charges of general applicability shall be used as offsets or credits against the Franchise Fee or Franchise Fee payments.
- (b) In accordance with Section 622(h) of the Cable Act, nothing in the Cable Act or this Renewal License shall be construed to limit the authority of the Issuing Authority to impose a tax, fee or other assessment of any kind on any Person (other than the Licensee) with respect to Cable Service or other communication service provided by such Person over the Cable System for which charges are assessed to Subscribers but not received by the Licensee. For any twelve (12) month period, the fees paid by such Person with respect to any such Cable Service or any other communications service shall not exceed five percent (5%) of such Person's gross revenues derived in such period from the provision of such service over the Cable System.

#### **SECTION 7.5 – LATE PAYMENT**

In the event that the payments required pursuant to this Article 7 are not tendered to the Town on or before the dates fixed in by or pursuant to Section 7.3 above or applicable law, interest due on such fee payment shall accrue from the date due at the prime rate at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston or its successor.

### **SECTION 7.6 – RECOMPUTATION**

(a) Tender or acceptance of any payment, including any payment of a Franchise Fee or License Fee or any payment required in Article 6 of this Renewal License shall not be construed as an accord that the amount paid is correct, nor shall such acceptance of payment be construed as a release of any claim that the Issuing Authority may have for additional sums including interest payable under Article 6 or Article 7. All amounts paid shall be subject to audit and recomputation by the Issuing Authority, and shall occur in no event later than two (2) years after the subject payment has been tendered.

- (b) If the Issuing Authority has reason to believe that any such payments are incorrect, the Licensee shall have thirty (30) business days after a written request from the Issuing Authority to provide the Town with additional information documenting and verifying the accuracy of any such payment(s). In the event that the Issuing Authority does not believe that such documentation supports the accuracy of such payment(s), the Issuing Authority may conduct an audit of such payment(s) at its expense.
- (c) If, after such audit and recomputation, the parties agree that an additional fee is owed to the Town and/or its designee, such fee shall be paid within thirty (30) days after such audit and recomputation. The interest on such additional fee shall be charged from the due date at the prime rate during the period that such additional amount is owed.

### SECTION 7.7 – AFFILIATES USE OF SYSTEM

Use of the Cable System by Affiliates shall be in compliance with applicable state and/or federal laws, and shall not detract from the provisions of this Renewal License.

### **SECTION 7.8 – METHOD OF PAYMENT**

All License Fee payments by the Licensee to the Town pursuant to this Renewal License shall be made payable to the Town and provided to the Select Board, unless the Licensee is otherwise notified in writing by the Issuing Authority.

#### RATES AND CHARGES

#### **SECTION 8.1 – RATES AND CHARGES**

- (a) Before any new or modified rate, fee, or charge is imposed, Licensee shall follow the applicable FCC and State notice requirements and rules and notify affected Subscribers, which notice may be by any means permitted under applicable law. Nothing in this Renewal License shall be construed to prohibit the reduction or waiver of charges in conjunction with promotional campaigns for the purpose of attracting or retaining Subscribers.
- (b) In accordance with applicable laws and regulations, the Licensee shall file with the Issuing Authority schedules which shall describe all Cable Service offered by the Licensee, all rates and charges of any kind, and all terms or conditions relating thereto, including any changes thereto.
- (c) At the time of initial solicitation or installation of Cable Service, the Licensee shall also provide each Subscriber with a detailed explanation of downgrade and upgrade policies and the manner in which Subscribers may terminate cable service. Subscribers shall have at least thirty (30) days prior to the Effective Date of any rate increase to either downgrade service or terminate service altogether without any charge. Change of service policies shall be in compliance with 207 CMR 10.00 et seq.
- (d) The Issuing Authority acknowledges that under the Cable Act, certain costs of Public, Educational and Governmental ("PEG") Access and other license/franchise requirements, may be passed through to the Subscribers in accordance with federal law.

#### **SECTION 8.2 – RATE REGULATION**

The Town reserves the right to regulate the Licensee's rates and charges to the extent allowable under state and federal laws.

# SECTION 8.3 – CREDIT FOR SERVICE INTERRUPTION

In accordance with applicable law, in the event that Service to any Subscriber is interrupted for twenty-four (24) or more consecutive hours, the Licensee shall grant such Subscriber a pro rata credit or rebate.

# CUSTOMER SERVICE, SUBCRIBÉR RIGHTS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

#### **SECTION 9.1 – TELEPHONE ACCESS**

- (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, including holidays. The Licensee reserves the right to modify its business operations with regard to such customer service call center. The Licensee shall comply with all state and federal requirements pertaining to the hours of operation of such customer service call center.
- (b) The Licensee's main customer service call center shall have a publicly listed local or toll-free telephone number for Carlisle Subscribers, unless required otherwise by applicable law.
- (c) Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §76.309(c)(1)(B), under normal operating conditions (as defined in §76.309(c)(4)(ii) telephone answer time by a customer service representative, including wait time, shall not exceed thirty (30) seconds when the connection is made. If the call needs to be transferred, transfer time shall not exceed thirty (30) seconds. Said standard shall be met no less than ninety (90%) percent of the time under normal operating conditions, measured on a quarterly basis.
- (d) Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §76.309(c)(1)(B), a Subscriber shall receive a busy signal less than three (3%) of the time, measured on a quarterly basis, under normal operation conditions.

# SECTION 9.2 – INSTALLATION VISITS-SERVICE CALLS-RESPONSE TIME

(a) The Licensee shall respond to all requests for aerial installation(s) within seven (7) days of such request, or at such other time as is mutually agreed-upon by the Licensee and said Subscriber. Underground installation shall be completed as expeditiously as practicable, weather permitting. If arranging appointments for installation, the Licensee shall specify in advance whether such will occur in the morning or afternoon, or a narrower interval, if possible, and the

Licensee shall make reasonable efforts to install at times convenient to Subscribers (including times other than (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays).

- (b) A Subscriber complaint or request for service received after Normal Business Hours shall be acted upon the next business day.
- (c) The Licensee shall ensure that there are stand-by technicians on-call at all times after Normal Business Hours. The answering service shall be required to notify the stand-by technician(s) of (i) any emergency situations; (ii) an outage as described in section 8.2 (e) below.
- (d) System outages shall be responded to promptly, twenty-four (24) hours a day by technical personnel. For purposes of this section, an outage shall be considered to occur when three (3) or more calls are received from any one neighborhood, concerning such an outage, or when the Licensee has reason to know of such an outage.
- (e) The Licensee shall remove all Subscriber Drop Cables, within twenty-one (21) days of receiving a request from a Subscriber to do so.

## SECTION 9.3 – FCC CUSTOMER SERVICE OBLIGATIONS

The Licensee shall comply with the FCC's Customer Service Obligations, codified at 47 U.S.C. Section 76.309, as may be amended from time to time, which standards are attached hereto, and made a part hereof, as **Exhibit 9.3**.

### SECTION 9.4 – BUSINESS PRACTICE STANDARDS

The Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority and all of its Subscribers with the following information in accordance with 207 CMR 10.00 et seq., attached hereto as **Exhibit 9.4**, as the same may exist or be amended from time to time:

- (i) Notification of its Billing Practices;
- (ii) Notification of Service, Rates and Charges;
- (iii) Form of Bill;

- (iv) Advance Billing, Issuance of Bills;
- (v) Billing Due Dates, Delinquency, Late Charges and Termination of Service;
- (vi) Charges for Disconnection or Downgrading of Service;
- (vii) Billing Disputes; and
- (viii) Security Deposits.

### SECTION 9.5 – COMPLAINT RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

- (a) The Licensee shall establish a procedure for resolution of complaints by Subscribers.
- (b) Upon reasonable notice, the Licensee shall expeditiously investigate and resolve all complaints regarding the quality of Cable Service, equipment malfunctions and similar matters. In the event that a Subscriber is aggrieved, the Issuing Authority or its designee(s) shall be responsible for receiving and acting upon such Subscriber complaints and/or inquiries, as follows:
- (i) Upon the written request of the Issuing Authority or its designee(s), and subject to applicable privacy laws, the Licensee shall, within fourteen (14) business days after receiving such request, send a written report to the Issuing Authority with respect to any complaint. Such report shall provide a full explanation of the investigation, finding and corrective steps taken by the Licensee.
- (ii) Should a Subscriber have an unresolved complaint regarding cable television operations, the Subscriber shall be entitled to file his or her complaint with the Issuing Authority or its designee(s), who shall have primary responsibility for the continuing administration of this Renewal License and the implementation of complaint procedures. Thereafter, if the Subscriber chooses to participate in further processing of the complaint, the Subscriber shall meet jointly with the Issuing Authority or its designee(s) and an authorized representative of the Licensee, within thirty (30) days of the Subscriber's filing of his or her complaint, in order to fully discuss and resolve such matter.

- (c) Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Issuing Authority or its designee(s) determines it to be in the public interest, the Issuing Authority or its designee(s) may investigate multiple complaints or disputes brought by Subscribers arising from the operations of the Licensee.
- (d) In the event that the Issuing Authority or its designee(s) finds a pattern of multiple unresolved Subscriber complaints, the Issuing Authority or its designee(s) and the Licensee shall discuss, in good faith, possible amendments to the Licensee's procedures for the resolution of complaints.

### SECTION 9.6 – EMPLOYEE IDENTIFICATION CARDS

All of the Licensee's employees entering upon private property, in connection with the construction, installation, maintenance and/or operation of the Cable System, including repair and sales personnel, shall be required to visibly display an employee identification card issued by the Licensee and bearing a picture of said employee.

### SECTION 9.7 – PROTECTION OF SUBSCRIBER PRIVACY

- (a) The Licensee shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations regarding privacy, including, but not limited to the provisions of Section 631 of the Cable Act (47 U.S.C. 551).
- (b) The Licensee shall be responsible for carrying out and enforcing the Cable System's privacy policy, and shall at all times maintain adequate physical, technical and administrative security safeguards to ensure that personal subscriber information is handled and protected strictly in accordance with this policy.

### SECTION 9.8 – PRIVACY WRITTEN NOTICE

At the time of entering into an agreement to provide any Cable Service to a Subscriber, and annually thereafter to all Cable System Subscribers, the Licensee shall provide Subscribers with

written notice, as required by Section 631(a)(1) of the Cable Act, which, at a minimum, clearly and conspicuously explains the Licensee's practices regarding the collection, retention, uses, and dissemination of personal subscriber information, and describing the Licensee's policy for the protection of subscriber privacy.

### **SECTION 9.9 – MONITORING**

- (a) The Licensee and the Town shall comply at all times as applicable with Section 631 of the Cable Act (47 U.S.C. 551) "Protection of Subscriber Privacy", as may be amended.
- (b) The Licensee shall not record or retain any information transmitted between a Subscriber and any third party, except as required for lawful business purposes. The Licensee shall destroy all subscriber information of a personal nature when such information is no longer necessary for the Licensee's lawful business purposes, or as required by applicable state and/or federal law(s).

# SECTION 9.10 – SUBSCRIBER'S RIGHT TO INSPECT AND VERIFY INFORMATION

- (a) The Licensee shall make available for inspection by a Subscriber at a reasonable time and place all personal subscriber information that the Licensee maintains regarding said Subscriber.
- (b) A Subscriber may obtain from the Licensee a copy of any or all of the personal subscriber information regarding him or her maintained by the Licensee. The Licensee may require a reasonable fee for making said copy.
- (c) A Subscriber or User may challenge the accuracy, completeness, retention, use or dissemination of any item of personal subscriber information. Such challenges and related inquiries about the handling of subscriber information shall be directed to the Licensee's authorized representative. The Licensee shall change any such information upon a reasonable showing by any Subscriber that such information is inaccurate.

# SECTION 9.11 – RESPECT FOR PRIVATE PROPERTY

Nothing herein shall be construed as authorizing access or entry onto private property, or any other property by the Licensee, where such right to access or entry is not otherwise provided by law, the Subscriber Services Agreement or this License.

#### **INSURANCE AND BONDS**

#### **SECTION 10.1 – INSURANCE**

At all times during the term of the Renewal License, including the time for removal of facilities provided for herein, the Licensee shall obtain, pay all premiums for, and file with the Issuing Authority, as obtained and renewed, copies of the certificates of insurance for the following policies:

- (a) A commercial general liability insurance policy, written on an occurrence basis, on all claims on account of injury to or death of a person or persons occasioned by the construction, installation, maintenance, operation or removal of the Cable System or alleged to have been so occasioned, with a minimum liability of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00). The policy shall provide blanket contractual liability insurance for all written contracts, and shall include coverage for personal injury, broad form property damage, products and completed operations liability, independent contractor's liability, coverage for property damage from perils of explosion, collapse or damage to underground utilities, commonly known as XCU coverage.
- (b) A property damage insurance policy, written on an occurrence basis, naming the Town, its officers, boards, commissions, committees, agent and employees as additional insureds and save them harmless from any and all claims of property damage, real or personal, occasioned or alleged to have been so occasioned by the construction, installation, maintenance or operation of the Cable Television System, with a minimum liability of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00).
- (c) Automobile liability insurance for owned automobiles and trucks, non-owned automobiles and trucks and/or rented automobiles and trucks in the amount of:
- (i) One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for bodily injury and consequent death per occurrence;
- (ii) Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) for property damage per occurrence.

- (d) Workers Compensation in the minimum amount of the statutory limit.
- (e) The Licensee shall carry excess liability, written on an occurrence basis, in the minimum amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) umbrella form over all other insurance required by this Section 10.1.
  - (f) The following conditions shall apply to the insurance policies required herein:
  - (i) Such insurance shall commence no later than the Effective Date of the Renewal License.
  - (ii) Such insurance shall be primary with respect to any insurance maintained by the Town and shall not call on the Town's insurance for contributions.
  - (iii) Such insurance shall be obtained from brokers or carriers authorized to transact insurance business in the State.
  - (iv) The coverage amounts set forth above may be met by a combination of underlying and umbrella policies so long as in combination the limits equal or exceed those required herein.
  - (v) The Licensee's failure to obtain, to procure or maintain the required insurance shall constitute a material breach of the Renewal License under which the Town may immediately suspend operations under the Renewal License.
  - (vi) The Licensee shall require that every one of its contractors and their subcontractors are covered by the Licensee's insurance as required herein or, in the alternative, carry in full force and effect, the same insurance in the same minimum amounts and meeting the same requirements as required in this Section 10.1.
    - (vii) The Licensee shall be responsible for all deductibles.
  - (viii) The Town, its Issuing Authority, other officials, and employees shall be named as "additional insureds" on all liability insurance policies.
  - (ix) Neither this Section 10.1, nor the provision of insurance or insurance proceeds pursuant to this Section 10.1, shall limit the liability of the Licensee pursuant to this Renewal License.

(x) The Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority with certificate(s) of insurance for all policies required herein upon expiration of the policies. The Licensee shall notify the Issuing Authority 30 days prior to any cancellation or reduction in the coverage amount. Said notice may be by electronic mail (e-mail).

### SECTION 10.2 – PERFORMANCE BOND

- (a) Licensee has submitted and shall maintain throughout the duration of this Renewal License and any removal period pursuant to M.G.L.c. 166A, § 5(c) a performance bond in the amount of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) running to the Town with a surety company satisfactory to the Issuing Authority to guarantee the following terms:
  - the satisfactory completion of the installation and operation of the Cable
     System in accordance with this Renewal License and applicable law;
  - (2) the satisfactory restoration of pavements, sidewalks and other improvements in accordance with M.G.L.c. 166A, § 5(g);
  - (3) the indemnity of the Town in accordance with M.G.L.c. 166A, § 5(b); and
  - (4) the satisfactory removal or other disposition of the Cable System in accordance with M.G.L.c. 166A, § 5(f).
- (b) The performance bond required herein shall contain an explicit endorsement stating that such performance bond is intended to cover the liability assumed by the Licensee under the terms of the Renewal License. Said notice may be by electronic mail (e-mail) and shall contain the following endorsement:

It is hereby understood and agreed that this performance bond shall not be cancelled, materially changed or the amount of coverage thereof reduced until thirty (30) days after receipt by the Issuing Authority of one (1) copy of a written notice of such intent to cancel, materially change or reduce the coverage required herein.

### **SECTION 10.3 – INDEMNIFICATION**

The Licensee shall, at its sole cost and expense, indemnify, hold harmless and defend the Town, its officials, boards, commissions, committees, agents and/or employees against all claims for damage due to the actions of the Licensee, its employees, officers or agents arising out of the construction, installation, maintenance, operation, and/or removal of the Cable Television System under this Renewal License, including without limitation, property damage or personal injury (including accidental death) that arise out of Licensee's construction, operation, maintenance or removal of the Cable System. Indemnified expenses shall include reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred from the time the Licensee receives written notice of its obligation to indemnify and defend the Town for a specific claim up to such time that the Licensee assumes defense of any action hereunder. The Issuing Authority shall give the Licensee timely written notice of its obligation to indemnify and defend the Town after receipt of a claim for which indemnification is sought. The Licensee is not required to indemnify the Town for attorney fees and costs incurred prior to the above referenced written notice being provided to the Licensee. In the event of a legal action, the Issuing Authority or its designee shall promptly forward a copy of the legal complaint served upon the Town.

### ADMINISTRATION AND REGULATION

### SECTION 11.1 – REGULATORY AUTHORITY

The Issuing Authority and/or its designee(s) shall be responsible for the day to day regulation of the Cable System. The Issuing Authority and/or its designee(s) shall monitor and enforce the Licensee's compliance with the terms and conditions of this Renewal License.

### SECTION 11.2 – POLICE AND REGULATORY POWERS

By executing this Renewal License, the Licensee acknowledges that its rights are subject to the powers of the Town and its right to adopt and enforce generally applicable by-laws in the lawful exercise of its police powers to the extent permitted by applicable law, with respect to the safety and welfare of the public. The Licensee shall comply with all applicable federal and State laws and regulation, and Town by-laws and lawful regulations, provided such Town bylaws and regulations are not specific to this License, the Licensee and/or Cable System. Any conflict between the terms of this Renewal License and any present or future lawful exercise of the Town's police and regulatory powers shall be resolved in a court of competent jurisdiction. Nothing in this Section 2.6 shall be deemed to prohibit the right of the Licensee to challenge the legality of a Town by-law or regulation.

# SECTION 11.3 – PERFORMANCE EVALUATION HEARINGS

The Licensee, if requested in writing by the Issuing Authority, shall attend a performance evaluation hearing no more than once per year. Nothing in this Section 11.2 shall limit any rights that the Issuing Authority may have to conduct additional hearings and/or the Licensee's attendance at such hearing. The Issuing Authority shall provide Licensee with the results of its performance evaluation in writing within sixty (60) days after the conclusion of such hearing.

**SECTION 11.4 – NONDISCRIMINATION** 

The Licensee shall not discriminate against any Person in its solicitation or Service on the

basis of race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, geographical location within the Town,

sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, or status with regard to public assistance. The

Licensee shall be subject to all other requirements of federal and State laws or regulations, relating

to nondiscrimination through the term of the Renewal License.

SECTION 11.5 - EMERGENCY REMOVAL OF PLANT

If, at any time, in case of fire or disaster in the Town, it shall become necessary in the

reasonable judgment of the Issuing Authority or any designee(s), to cut or move any of the wires,

cables, amplifiers, appliances or appurtenances of the Cable Television System, the Town shall have

the right to do so at the sole cost and expense of the Licensee. In such event, the Licensee shall

reimburse the Issuing Authority the cost and expense of such removal within thirty (30) days of

submission of a bill thereof.

SECTION 11.6 - REMOVAL AND RELOCATION

The Issuing Authority shall have the power at any time to order and require the Licensee to

remove or relocate any pole, wire, cable or other structure owned by the Licensee that is dangerous

to life or property. In the event that the Licensee, after notice, fails or refuses to act within a

reasonable time, the Issuing Authority shall have the power to remove or relocate the same at the

sole cost and expense of the Licensee. In such event, the Licensee shall reimburse the Issuing

Authority the cost and expense of such removal within thirty (30) days of submission of a bill

53

thereof

# SECTION 11.7 - REMOVAL OR ABANDONMENT

Upon termination of this Renewal License by passage of time or otherwise, unless (1) the Licensee has its license renewed for another term or (2) the ownership of the Cable Television System is transferred to another Person with written approval by the Issuing Authority in accordance with applicable law and pursuant to Section 11.8 below or 3) unless otherwise operating under the terms of this Renewal License as allowed by applicable law, the Licensee shall remove all of its supporting structures, poles, transmission and distribution systems, and other appurtenances from the Public Ways and shall restore the areas to their original condition as is reasonably possible and as soon as reasonably possible. If such removal is not complete within six (6) months of such termination, the Issuing Authority may deem any property not removed as having been abandoned. Upon written request of the Licensee, the Issuing Authority may waive this requirement for good cause shown. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the parties reserve any and all rights they may have under the Cable Act with respect to disposition of the Cable System in connection with termination of this Renewal License as a result of the License not being renewed or otherwise lawfully terminated.

# SECTION 11.8 – TRANSFER OF THE RENEWAL LICENSE

In accordance with 207 CMR 4.00 and applicable federal law, this Renewal License or control hereof shall not be transferred or assigned without the prior written consent of the Issuing Authority, which consent shall not be arbitrarily or unreasonably withheld. The consent of the Issuing Authority shall be given only after a hearing upon written application therefor on forms prescribed by the Department. Pursuant to 207 CMR 4.01(2), a transfer or assignment of a license or control thereof between commonly controlled entities, between affiliated companies, or between parent and subsidiary corporations, shall not constitute a transfer or assignment of a license or control thereof under M.G.L.c.166A Section 7.

# SECTION 11.9 – EFFECT OF UNUATHORIZED TRANSFER ACTION

- (a) Any transfer of the Cable System without the Licensee and the transferee complying with Section 2.8 above shall be null and void, and shall be deemed a material breach of this Renewal License.
- (b) If the Issuing Authority denies its consent to any such action and a transfer has nevertheless been effected, the Issuing Authority may revoke and terminate this Renewal License, unless such transfer is otherwise allowable by applicable law.
- (c) The grant or waiver of any one or more of such consents shall not render unnecessary any subsequent consent or consents, nor shall the grant of any such consent constitute a waiver of any other rights of the Town.

### SECTION 11.10 - JURISDICTION/VENUE

Jurisdiction and venue over any dispute, action or suit shall be in any court of appropriate venue and subject matter jurisdiction located in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the parties by the instrument subject themselves to the personal jurisdiction of said court for the entry of any such judgment and for the resolution of any dispute, action, or suit.

### **DETERMINATION OF BREACH - LICENSE REVOCATION**

### SECTION 12.1 - NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE

In the event that the Issuing Authority has reason to believe that the Licensee has defaulted in the performance of any or several provisions of this Renewal License, except as excused by Force Majeure, the Issuing Authority shall notify the Licensee in writing, by certified mail, of the provision or provisions which the Issuing Authority believes may have been in default and the details relating thereto. The Licensee shall have thirty (30) days from the receipt of such notice to:

- (a) respond to the Issuing Authority in writing, contesting the Issuing Authority's assertion of default and providing such information or documentation as may be necessary to support the Licensee's position; or
- (b) cure any such default (and provide written evidence of the same), or, in the event that by nature of the default, such default cannot in the reasonable opinion of the Issuing Authority be cured within such thirty (30) day period, to take reasonable steps to cure said default and diligently continue such efforts until said default is cured. The Licensee shall report to the Issuing Authority, in writing, by certified mail, at thirty (30) day intervals as to the Licensee's efforts, indicating the steps taken by the Licensee to cure said default and reporting the Licensee's progress until such default is cured.
- (c) In the event that: (i) the Licensee fails to respond to such notice of default; and/or (ii) the Licensee fails to cure the default or to take reasonable steps to cure the default within the required thirty (30) day period; the Issuing Authority or its designee shall promptly schedule a public hearing no sooner than fourteen (14) days after written notice, by certified mail, to the Licensee. The Licensee shall be provided reasonable opportunity to offer evidence, question witnesses, if any, and be heard at such public hearing.
- (d) Within forty-five (45) days after said public hearing, the Issuing Authority shall issue a written determination of its findings. In the event that the Issuing Authority determines that the Licensee

is in such default, the Issuing Authority may determine to pursue any lawful remedy available to it, including, but not limited to:

- (i) seek specific performance of any provision in this Renewal License which reasonably lends itself to such remedy as an alternative to damages;
- (ii) commence an action at law for monetary damages
- (iii) foreclose on all or any appropriate part of the security provided pursuant to Section 10.2 herein;
- (iv) declare the Renewal License to be revoked subject to Section 12.2 below and applicable law;
- (v) invoke any other lawful remedy available to the Town.
- (e) If (i) the Issuing Authority fails to issue a written reply within 30 days accepting or rejecting Licensees' response pursuant to 12.1(a) above; (ii) the Issuing Authority fails to issue a written acknowledgement after Licensee's notice that it cured said default pursuant to 12.1(b) above; and/or (iii) the Issuing Authority fails to schedule a public hearing no later than thirty (30) days of having sent a written notice consistent with Section 12.1(c) above and/or (iv) the Issuing authority fails to issue a written determination with thirty (30) days after the public hearing pursuant to Section 12.1(d) above, then the issue of said default against Licensee by the Issuing Authority shall be considered null and void.

### SECTION 12.2 – REVOCATION OF THE RENEWAL LICENSE

To the extent permitted by applicable law and subject to the provisions of Section 12.1 above, in the event that the Licensee fails to comply with any material provision of this Renewal License, the Issuing Authority may revoke the Renewal License granted herein.

### SECTION 12.3 – NON-EXCLUSIVITY OF REMEDY

No decision by the Issuing Authority or the Town to invoke any remedy under this Renewal License or under any statute, law or by-law shall preclude the availability of any other such remedy.

### SECTION 12.4 – NO WAIVER-CUMULATIVE REMEDIES

- (a) No failure on the part of the Issuing Authority, the Town or the Licensee to exercise, and no delay in exercising, any right in this Renewal License shall operate as a waiver thereof, nor shall any single or partial exercise of any such right preclude any other right, all subject to the conditions and limitations contained in this Renewal License.
- (b) The rights and remedies provided herein are cumulative and not exclusive of any remedies provided by law, and nothing contained in this Renewal License shall impair any of the rights of the Town or of the Licensee under applicable law, subject in each case to the terms and conditions in this Renewal License.
- (c) No waiver of, nor failure to exercise any right or remedy by the Issuing Authority, the Town or the Licensee at any one time shall affect the exercise of such right or remedy or any other right or remedy by the Town or the Licensee at any other time. In order for any waiver of the Issuing Authority, Town or the Licensee to be effective, it shall be in writing.
- (d) The failure of the Issuing Authority or the Town to take any action in the event of any breach by the Licensee shall not be deemed or construed to constitute a waiver of or otherwise affect the right of the Issuing Authority or the Town to take any action permitted by this Renewal License at any other time in the event that such breach has not been cured, or with respect to any other breach by the Licensee.

### **SECTION 12.5 – LIQUIDATED DAMAGES**

(a) For the violation of any of the following material provisions of this Renewal License, liquidated damages shall be paid by the Licensee to the Town, subject to Section 12.1 (Notice and Opportunity to Cure) above. Any such liquidated damages shall be assessed as of the date that the Licensee receives written notice, by certified mail, pursuant to Section 12.1 (Notice and Opportunity

to Cure) above, of the provision(s) which the Issuing Authority believes to be in default, unless cured pursuant to Section 12.1 (Notice and Opportunity to Cure) above.

- 1. For failure to extend service to any resident in accordance with Article 3 (Area to be Served) herein, One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) per day, for each day that such non-compliance continues.
- 2. For failure to comply with the FCC's Customer Service Obligations, 47 CFR §76.309, and the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("DTE"), Cable Division, Billing Practices Regulation, 207 CMR §10.01 et seq., as each may from time to time be amended, and in compliance with Sections 7.1 and 7.2. Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each day that any such non-compliance continues.
- 3. For failure to operate and maintain the Cable Television System, in accordance with Section 4.1 (System Maintenance) herein, fifty (\$50.00) per day, for each day such non-compliance continues.
- 4. For failure to comply with the PEG access commitments contained in Article 6 (PEG Access Channels and Support) herein, fifty (\$50.00) per day, for each day such non-compliance continues longer than 30 days.
- 5. For failure to maintain the bonds and insurance required by Sections 10.1 and 10.2 (Insurance and Bonds) herein, One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per day, for each day of non-compliance.

All similar violations or failures from the same factual events affecting multiple Subscribers shall be assessed as a single violation, and each violation or a failure may only be assessed as a single material violation.

### REPORTS, AUDITS AND PERFORMANCE TESTS

### **SECTION 13.1 – GENERAL**

- (a) Upon the written request of the Issuing Authority, the Licensee shall timely submit to the Town any information which may be reasonably required to establish the Licensee's compliance with its obligations pursuant to the Renewal License.
- (b) If the Licensee believes that the documentation requested by the Issuing Authority involves proprietary information, then the Licensee shall submit the information to its counsel, who shall confer with the Town Counsel for a determination of the validity of the Licensee's claim of a proprietary interest. If it is agreed by the parties that such information is proprietary, then any obligation pursuant to Section 13.1(a) is not applicable. In the event of a disagreement the Licensee shall have all rights available under applicable law to challenge or appeal the determination of the Town to the appropriate appellate entities.

### **SECTION 13.2 – FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- (a) Upon written request by the Issuing Authority and in accordance with applicable law, after the end of the Licensee's fiscal year, the Licensee shall furnish the Issuing Authority and/or its designee(s) with the Cable Division Form 200 showing a balance sheet sworn to by the Licensee's authorized financial representative. Said forms shall contain such financial information as required by State and/or federal law.
- (b) The Licensee shall also provide any other reports required by State and/or federal law that are required to be provided to the Issuing Authority.

### SECTION 13.3 - CABLE SYSTEM INFORMATION

Upon written request by the Issuing Authority, the Licensee shall file annually with the Issuing Authority a report of the number of Basic Service Subscribers.

### SECTION 13.4 – IN-HOUSE TELEPHONE REPORTS

To establish the Licensee's compliance with the requirements of Sections 8.1 of this Renewal License, the Licensee shall provide, upon written request of the Issuing Authority, but not more than once annually, the Issuing Authority with a report of regional telephone traffic, generated from an inhouse automated call accounting or call tracking system, covering Subscriber calls to the Licensee. Said reports shall include the following information and any other information that may be required by applicable law(s): (i) confirmation that, under normal operating conditions, telephone answer time by a customer representative, including wait time, shall not exceed thirty (30) seconds when the connection is made (which standard shall be met no less than ninety (90) percent of the time under normal operating conditions, measured on a quarterly basis); and (ii) confirmation that, under normal operating conditions, the customer will receive a busy signal less than three (3) percent of the time.

# SECTION 13.5 – SUBSCRIBER COMPLAINT REPORTS

The Issuing Authority and the Department shall be notified by Licensee on forms to be prescribed by the Department not less than annually, of the complaints of Subscribers received during the reporting period and the manner in which they have been met, including the time required to make any necessary repairs or adjustments.

### SECTION 13.6 – ANNUAL PERFORMANCE TESTS

Upon the written request of the Issuing Authority, the Licensee shall make available to the Issuing Authority proof of performance test data, consistent with the FCC regulations set out in 47 C.F.R. §76.601 et seq.

# **SECTION 13.7 – QUALITY OF SERVICE**

Where there exists evidence which, in the reasonable judgment of the Issuing Authority, casts doubt upon the reliability or technical quality of Cable Service(s), the Issuing Authority shall cite specific facts which cast such doubt(s), in a written notice to the Licensee. The Licensee shall

submit a written report to the Issuing Authority, within thirty (30) days of receipt of any such notice from the Issuing Authority, setting forth in detail its explanation of the problem(s).

### SECTION 13.8 – DUAL FILINGS

If requested, in writing, the Licensee and the Issuing Authority shall provide to one another copies of any petitions or written communications with any State or federal agency or commission pertaining to any material aspect of the Cable System operation hereunder and subject to Section 12.1 supra.

#### **SECTION 13.9 – INVESTIGATION**

Subject to applicable law and regulation, the Licensee and any Affiliated Person(s) shall cooperate fully and faithfully with any lawful investigation, audit or inquiry conducted by a Town governmental agency; provided, however, that any such investigation, audit or inquiry is for the purpose of establishing the Licensee's compliance with its obligations pursuant to this Renewal License.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **SECTION 14.1 – SEVERABILITY**

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or other portion of this Renewal License is, for any reason, declared invalid, in whole or in part, by any court, agency, commission, legislative body, or other authority of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent portion. Such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof, which other portions shall continue in full force and effect.

### **SECTION 14.2 – FORCE MAJEURE**

If for any reason of force majeure Licensee is unable in whole or in part to carry out its obligations hereunder, said Licensee shall not be deemed in violation or default during the continuance of such inability. Unless further limited elsewhere in this Renewal License, the term "force majeure" as used herein shall have the following meaning: strikes; acts of god; acts of public enemies, orders of any kind of the government of the United States of America or of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or any of their departments, agencies, political subdivisions, or officials, or any civil or military authority; insurrections; riots, pandemics, epidemics; public health emergencies; landslides; lightning; earthquakes; tornados; fires; hurricanes; volcanic activity; storms; floods; washouts; droughts, arrests; civil disturbances; explosions; partial or entire failure of utilities; unavailability of materials and/or essential equipment, environmental restrictions or any other cause or event not reasonably anticipated or within Licensee's control.

# SECTION 14.3 – ACTS OR OMISSIONS OF AFFILIATES

During the term of the Renewal License, the Licensee shall be liable for the acts or omissions of its Affiliates while such Affiliates are involved directly or indirectly in the

construction, installation, maintenance or operation of the Cable System as if the acts or omissions of such Affiliates were the acts or omissions of the Licensee.

### **SECTION 14.4 – NOTICES**

(a) Every notice to be served upon the Issuing Authority shall be delivered or sent by certified mail (postage prepaid) to the following address or such other address as the Issuing Authority may specify in writing to Licensee.

Town of Carlisle Attn: Select Board Town Hall 66 Westford Carlisle, MA 01741

with copies to:

Town of Carlisle

Attn: Cable Advisory Committee

Town Hall 66 Westford Carlisle, MA 01741

(b) Every notice served upon Licensee shall be delivered or sent by certified mail (postage prepaid) to the following address or such other address as Licensee may specify in writing to the Issuing Authority.

Comcast Cable Communications, Inc.

Attn: Government Relations

5 Omni Way

Chelmsford, MA 01824

with copies to:

Comcast Cable Communications, Inc.

Attn: Vice President, Government Relations

676 Island Pond Road Manchester, NH 03109

Comcast Cable Communications, Inc.

Attn: Government Affairs One Comcast Center Philadelphia, PA 19103 (c) Delivery of such notices shall be equivalent to direct personal notice, direction or order, and shall be deemed to have been given at the time of receipt.

### SECTION 14.5 – RENEWAL LICENSE EXHIBITS

The Exhibits to the Renewal License attached hereto, and all portions thereof, are incorporated by reference and expressly made a part of this Renewal License.

#### **SECTION 14.6 – ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

This instrument contains the entire agreement between the parties, supersedes all prior agreements or proposals except as specifically incorporated herein, and cannot be changed without written amendment.

#### **SECTION 14.7 – CAPTIONS**

The captions to sections throughout this Renewal License are intended solely to facilitate reading and reference to the sections and provisions of the Renewal License. Such sections shall not affect the meaning or interpretation of the Renewal License.

#### **SECTION 14.8 – WARRANTIES**

Licensee warrants, represents and acknowledges that, as of the Effective Date of this Renewal License:

- (a) The Licensee is duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts;
- (b) The Licensee has the requisite power and authority under applicable law and its by-laws and articles of incorporation and/or other organizational documents, is authorized by resolutions of its Board of Directors or other governing body, and has secured all consents which are required to be obtained as of the date of execution of this Renewal License, to enter into and legally bind Licensee

this Renewal License:

to this Renewal License and to take all actions necessary to perform all of its obligations pursuant to

(c) This Renewal License is enforceable against Licensee in accordance with the provisions

herein;

(d) There is no action or proceedings pending or threatened against Licensee which would

interfere with performance of this Renewal License; and

(e) Pursuant to Section 625(f) of the Cable Act, the performance of all terms and conditions

in this Renewal License is commercially practicable as of the Effective Date of this Renewal License.

SECTION 14.9 – NO RECOURSE AGAINST THE ISSUING AUTHORITY

Pursuant to Section 635A(a - d) of the Cable Act, the Licensee shall have no recourse against

the Issuing Authority, the Town and/or its officials, boards, commissions, committees, members,

agents or employees other than injunctive relief or declaratory relief.

SECTION 14.10 – TOWN'S RIGHT OF INTERVENTION

The Town hereby reserves to itself, and the Licensee acknowledges, the Town's right, as

authorized by applicable law and/or regulation, to intervene in any suit, action or proceeding

involving this Renewal License, or any provision in this Renewal License; provided, however, that

this Section shall not restrict the right of the Licensee to oppose such intervention, pursuant to

applicable law.

**SECTION 14.11 – TERM** 

All obligations of the Licensee and the Issuing Authority set forth in the Renewal License

shall commence upon the Effective Date of this Renewal License and shall continue for the term

of the Renewal License, except as expressly provided for otherwise herein.

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# SECTION 14.12 – APPLICABILITY OF RENEWAL LICENSE

All of the provisions in this Renewal License shall apply to the Town, Licensee, and their respective successors and assigns.

# **SECTION 14.13 - NO THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES**

Nothing in this Renewal License is intended to confer third-party beneficiary status on any member of the public to enforce the terms of this Renewal License.

WITNESS OUR HANDS AND OFFICIAL SEAL, THIS 10 DAY OF 12023.

TOWN OF CARLISLE

By its:

Select Board

B9676301EE8D47D.

Docusigned by:

Nathan Brown

EAB0392B3391462.

Docusigned by:

David Modul

23CDE1B9E6494C3.

Docusigned by:

Latherine J Reid

DF8F6E4ED2864AO.

Docusigned by:

9AF584FD86C94D1

**COMCAST OF MASSACHUSETTS III, INC.** By:

Anthony M. Bowling
Anthony M. Bowling, Sr. Vice President
Greater Boston Region

### **EXHIBIT 3.6**

### CABLE DROPS TO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

### Municipal Buildings

Town Hall 66 Westford Street
Gleason Library 22 Bedford Road
Fire Station 80 Westford Street
Police Station 41 Lowell Street
Dept. of Public Works Elizabeth Ridge Road

### Public School Buildings

Carlisle Public School 83 School Street
Spalding School 83 School Street\*
Grant Building 83 School Street
Corey Building 83 School Street
Robbins Building 83 School Street

#### **EXHIBIT 5.2**

#### **PROGRAMMING**

Licensee shall provide the following broad categories of Video Programming:

- News Programming;
- Sports Programming;
- Public Affairs Programming;
- Children's Programming;
- Entertainment Programming;
- Foreign Language Programming; and
- Local Programming.

### **EXHIBIT 9.3**

### FCC CUSTOMER SERVICE OBLIGATIONS

TITLE 47--TELECOMMUNICATION CHAPTER I--FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

PART 76--CABLE TELEVISION SERVICE

Subpart H--General Operating Requirements

Sec. 76.309 Customer Service Obligations

- (a) A cable franchise authority may enforce the customer service standards set forth in paragraph (c) of this section against cable operators. The franchise authority must provide affected cable operators ninety (90) days written notice of its intent to enforce the standards.
- (b) Nothing in this rule should be construed to prevent or prohibit:
- (1) A franchising authority and a cable operator from agreeing to customer service requirements that exceed the standards set forth in paragraph (c) of this section;
- (2) A franchising authority from enforcing, through the end of the franchise term, pre-existing customer service requirements that exceed the standards set forth in paragraph (c) of this section and are contained in current franchise agreements;
- (3) Any State or any franchising authority from enacting or enforcing any consumer protection law, to the extent not specifically preempted herein; or
- (4) The establishment or enforcement of any State or municipal law or regulation concerning customer service that imposes customer service requirements that exceed, or address matters not addressed by the standards set forth in paragraph (c) of this section.
- (c) Cable operators are subject to the following customer service standards:
- (1) Cable system office hours and telephone availability-
- (i) The cable operator will maintain a local, toll-free or collect call telephone access line which will be available to its subscribers 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- (A) Trained company representatives will be available to respond to customer telephone inquiries during normal
- (B) After normal business hours, the access line may be answered by a service or an automated response system, including an answering machine. Inquiries received after normal business hours must be responded to by a trained company representative on the next business day.
- (ii) Under normal operating conditions, telephone answer time by a customer representative, including wait time, shall not exceed thirty (30) seconds when the connection is made. If the call needs to be transferred, transfer time shall not exceed thirty (30) seconds. These standards shall be met no less than ninety (90) percent of the time under normal operating conditions, measured on a quarterly basis.
- (iii) The operator will not be required to acquire equipment or perform surveys to measure compliance with the telephone answering standards above unless an historical record of complaints indicates a clear failure to comply.
- (iv) Under normal operating conditions, the customer will receive a busy signal less than three (3) percent of the time.
- (v) Customer service center and bill payment locations will be open at least during normal business hours and will be conveniently located.
- (2) Installations, outages and service calls. Under normal operating conditions, each of the following four standards will be met no less than ninety five (95) percent of the time measured on a quarterly basis:
- (i) Standard installations will be performed within seven (7) business days after an order has been placed. "Standard" installations are those that are located up to 125 feet from the existing distribution system.
- (ii) Excluding conditions beyond the control of the operator, the cable operator will begin working on "service interruptions" promptly and in no event later than 24 hours after the interruption becomes known. The cable operator must begin actions to correct other service problems the next business day after notification of the service problem.
- (iii) The "appointment window" alternatives for installations, service calls, and other installation activities will be either a specific time or, at maximum, a four-hour time block during normal business hours. (The operator may

schedule service calls and other installation activities outside of normal business hours for the express convenience of the customer.)

- (iv) An operator may not cancel an appointment with a customer after the close of business on the business day prior to the scheduled appointment.
- (v) If a cable operator representative is running late for an appointment with a customer and will not be able to keep the appointment as scheduled, the customer will be contacted. The appointment will be rescheduled, as necessary, at a time which is convenient for the customer.
- (3) Communications between cable operators and cable subscribers—
- (i) Refunds-Refund checks will be issued promptly, but no later than either-
- (A) The customer's next billing cycle following resolution of the request or thirty (30) days, whichever is earlier, or
- (B) The return of the equipment supplied by the cable operator if service is terminated.
- (ii) Credits—Credits for service will be issued no later than the customer's next billing cycle following the determination that a credit is warranted.
- (4) Definitions-
- (i) Normal business hours—The term "normal business hours" means those hours during which most similar businesses in the community are open to serve customers. In all cases, "normal business hours" must include some evening hours at least one night per week and/or some weekend hours.
- (ii) Normal operating conditions—The term "normal operating conditions" means those service conditions which are within the control of the cable operator. Those conditions which are not within the control of the cable operator include, but are not limited to, natural disasters, civil disturbances, power outages, telephone network outages, and severe or unusual weather conditions. Those conditions which are ordinarily within the control of the cable operator include, but are not limited to, special promotions, pay-per-view events, rate increases, regular peak or seasonal demand periods, and maintenance or upgrade of the cable system.
- (iii) Service interruption—The term "service interruption" means the loss of picture or sound on one or more cable channels.

#### **EXHIBIT 9.4**

### BILLING AND TERMINATION OF SERVICE

#### 207 CMR 10.00

207 CMR: DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND CABLE 207 CMR 10.00: BILLING AND TERMINATION OF CABLE SERVICE

#### Section

10.01:	Billing	Practices	Notice
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10.02: Services, Rates and Charges Notice

10.03: Form of Bill

10.04: Advance Billing and Issuance of Bill

10.05: Billing Due Dates, Delinquency, Late Charges and Termination of Service

10.06: Charges for Disconnection or Downgrading of Service

10.07: Billing Disputes10.08: Security Deposits

#### 10.01: Billing Practices Notice

- (1) Upon request, a cable television operator shall give written notice of its billing practices to potential subscribers before a subscription agreement is reached. Otherwise, a cable television operator shall give written notice of its billing practices to potential subscribers at the time a subscription agreement is reached. Such notice shall include practices relating to the frequency and timing of bills, payment requirements necessary to avoid account delinquency, billing dispute resolution procedures, and late payment penalties.
- (2) A copy of the cable television operator's billing practices notice, work order, and sample subscriber bill shall be filed by March 15 of each year with the Department, the issuing authority, and the operator's local office, where they shall be available for public inspection. If an operator amends its billing practices notice, work order, or subscriber bill after submitting the annual filing, it shall file copies of the amendments with the Department, the issuing authority, and the operator's local office.
- (3) At least 30 days prior to implementing a change of one of its billing practices, the cable television operator shall notify in writing the Department, the issuing authority, and all affected subscribers of the change and shall include in the notice a description of the changed practice.
- (4) Statements about billing practices in work orders, marketing, materials, and other documents shall be consistent with the billing practices notice.

#### 10.02: Services, Rates and Charges Notice

- (1) Upon request, a cable television operator shall give notice of its services, rates, and charges to potential subscribers before a subscription agreement is reached. Otherwise, a cable television operator shall give notice of its services, rates, and charges to subscribers at the time a subscription agreement is reached.
- (2) At least 30 days prior to implementing an increase in one of its rates, charges, or fees, or a substantial change in the number or type of programming services, the cable operator shall notify, in writing, the Department, the issuing authority, and all affected subscribers of the change and shall include a description of the increased rate or charge. The notice shall list the old and new rate or charge and, if applicable, the old and new programming services provided. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a cable television operator

shall not be required to provide prior notice of any rate change that is the result of a regulatory fee, franchise fee, or any other fee, tax, assessment, or charge of any kind imposed by any federal or state agency or franchising authority on the transaction between the operator and the subscriber. An operator shall notify in writing, the Department, the issuing authority, and all affected subscribers of any such change as soon as possible.

- (3) Every cable television operator shall fully disclose in writing all of its programming services and rates, upon request from a subscriber.
- (4) Every cable television operator shall fully disclose in writing all of its charges for installation, disconnection, downgrades and upgrades, reconnection, additional outlets, and rental, purchase, and replacement due to damage or theft of equipment or devices used in relation to cable services, upon request from a subscriber.
- (5) Every cable television operator shall provide written notice of the charge, if any, for service visits and under what circumstances such charge will be imposed, upon request from a subscriber.
- (6) A copy of the cable operator's programming services, rates, and charges shall be filed by March 15th of each year with the Department, the issuing authority, and the operator's local office where it shall be made available for public inspection. If an operator amends its notice after the annual filing, it shall file a copy of the amendment with the Department, the issuing authority, and the operator's local office.
- (7) A cable operator shall not charge a subscriber for any service or equipment that the subscriber has not affirmatively requested by name. This provision, however, shall not preclude the addition or deletion of a specific program from a service offering, the addition or deletion of specific channels from an existing tier of service, or the restructuring or division of existing tiers of service that do not result in a fundamental change in the nature of an existing service or tier of service.

### 10.03: Form of Bill

- (1) The bill for cable television service shall contain the following information in clear, concise, and understandable language and format:
  - (a) the name, local address and telephone number of the cable television operator. The telephone number shall be displayed in a conspicuous location on the bill and shall be accompanied by a statement that the subscriber may call this number with any questions or complaints about the bill and or subscribers rights under 207 CMR 10.07 in the event of a billing dispute;
  - (b) the period of time over which each chargeable service is billed including prorated periods as a result of establishment and termination of service;
  - (c) the dates on which individually chargeable services were rendered or any applicable credits were applied;
  - (d) separate itemization of each rate, charge, or fee levied or credit applied, including but not be limited to, basic, premium service, and equipment charges, as well as any unit, pay-per-view, or per item charges or fees;
  - (e) the amount of the bill for the current billing period, separate from any prior balance due; and
  - (f) the date on which payment is due from the subscriber.
- (2) Cable operators may identify as a separate line item of each regular subscriber bill the following:
  - (a) The amount of the total bill assessed as a franchise fee and the identity of the franchising authority to whom the fee is paid;
  - (b) The amount of the total bill assessed to satisfy any requirements imposed on the cable operator by the franchise agreement to support public, educational, or governmental channels or the use of such channels;
  - (c) The amount of any other fee, tax, assessment, or charge of any kind imposed by any governmental authority on the transaction between the operator and the subscriber. In order for a governmental fee or assessment to be separately identified under 207 CMR 10.03, it must be directly imposed by a governmental body on a transaction between a subscriber and an operator.

(3) All itemized costs shall be direct and verifiable. Each cable operator shall maintain a document in its public file which shall be available upon request and shall provide the accounting justification for all itemized costs appearing on the bill.

### 10.04: Advance Billing and Issuance of Bill

- (1) In the absence of a license provision further limiting the period of advance billing, a cable operator may, under uniform, nondiscriminatory terms and conditions, require payment not more than two months prior to the last day of a service period.
- (2) A cable subscriber may voluntarily offer and a cable operator may accept advance payments for periods greater than two months.
- (3) Upon request, a cable television operator shall provide subscribers with a written statement of account for each billing period and a final bill at the time of disconnection.

# 10.05: Billing Due Dates, Delinquency, Late Charges and Termination of Service

- (1) Subscriber payment to a cable operator is due on the due date marked on the bill, which shall be a date certain and in no case a statement that the bill is due upon receipt. The due date shall not be less than five business days following the mailing date of the bill.
- (2) A subscriber account shall not be considered delinquent unless payment has not been received by the cable operator at least 30 days after the bill due date.
- (3) The following provisions shall apply to the imposition of late charges on cable subscribers:
  - (a) A cable television operator shall not impose a late charge on a subscriber unless a subscriber is delinquent, the operator has given the subscriber a written late charge notice in a clear and conspicuous manner, and the subscriber has been given at least eight business days from the date of delinquency to pay the balance due.
  - (b) A charge of not more than 5% of the balance due may be imposed as a one-time late charge.
  - (c) No late charge may be assessed on the amount of a bill in dispute.
- (4) A cable television operator shall not terminate a subscriber's service unless the subscriber is delinquent, the cable operator has given the subscriber a separate written notice of termination in a clear and conspicuous manner, and the subscriber has been given at least eight business days from the mailing of the notice of termination to pay the balance due. A notice of termination shall not be mailed to subscribers until after the date of delinquency.
- (5) A cable television operator shall not assess a late charge on a bill or discontinue a subscriber's cable television service solely because of the nonpayment of the disputed portion of a bill during the period established by 207 CMR 10.07 for registration of a complaint with the operator or during the process of a dispute resolution mechanism recognized under 207 CMR 10.07.
- (6) Any charge for returned checks shall be reasonably related to the costs incurred by the cable operator in processing such checks.

### 10.06: Charges for Disconnection or Downgrading of Service

- (1) A cable television operator may impose a charge reasonably related to the cost incurred for a downgrade of service, except that no such charge may be imposed when:
  - (a) A subscriber requests total disconnection from cable service; or
  - (b) A subscriber requests the downgrade within the 30 day period following the notice of a rate increase or a substantial change in the number or type of programming services relative to the service(s) in question.

(2) If a subscriber requests disconnection from cable television service prior to the effective date of an increase in rates, the subscriber shall not be charged the increased rate if the cable television operator fails to disconnect service prior to the effective date. Any subscriber who has paid in advance for the next billing period and who requests disconnection from service shall receive from the cable operator a prorated refund of any amounts paid in advance.

#### 10.07: Billing Disputes

- (1) Every cable television operator shall have established procedures for prompt investigation of any billing dispute registered by a subscriber. The procedures shall provide at least 30 days from the due date of the bill for the subscriber to register a complaint. The cable television operator shall notify the subscriber of the result of its investigation and give an explanation for its decision within 30 business days of receipt of the complaint.
- (2) The subscriber forfeits any rights under 207 CMR 10.07 if he or she fails to pay an undisputed balance within 30 days of the bill due date.
- (3) Any subscriber who disagrees with the results of the cable television operator's investigation must promptly inquire about and take advantage of any complaint resolution mechanism, formal or informal, available under the license or through the issuing authority before the Department may accept a petition filed under 207 CMR 10.07(4).
- (4) The subscriber or the cable television operator may petition the Department to resolve disputed matters within 30 days of any final action by the cable operator. Final action under 207 CMR 10.07(3) shall be deemed to have occurred 30 days after the filing of a complaint.
- (5) Upon receipt of a petition, the Department may proceed to resolve the dispute if all parties agree to submit the dispute to the Department and be bound by the Department's decision and the Department obtains a statement signed by the parties indicating that agreement. In resolving the dispute, the Department may receive written or oral statements from the parties, and may conduct its own investigation. The Department shall then issue a decision based on the record and the parties shall receive written notification of the decision and a statement of reasons therefor.

#### 10.08: Security Deposits

- (1) A cable operator shall not require from any cable subscriber a security deposit for converters or other equipment in excess of the cost of the equipment.
- (2) The cable operator shall pay interest to the cable subscriber at a rate of 7% per year for any deposit held for six months or more, and such interest shall accrue from the date the deposit is made by the cable subscriber. Interest shall be paid annually by the cable operator to the cable subscriber, either as a direct payment or as a credit to the cable subscriber's account.
- (3) Within 30 days after the return of the converter or other equipment, the cable operator shall return the security deposit plus any accrued interest to the cable subscriber, either as a direct payment or as a credit to the cable subscriber's account.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY 207 CMR 10.00: 47 U.S.C. § 552, M.G.L. c. 166A, §§ 2A, 3, 5(1), 10, 16, and 17