

**CABLE TELEVISION**

**RENEWAL LICENSE**

**GRANTED TO**

**Comcast of Massachusetts II, Inc.**

---

**Granted By**

**THE TOWN COUNCIL  
TOWN OF FRANKLIN,  
MASSACHUSETTS**

**Effective Date: October 6, 2010**

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## **RENEWAL LICENSE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

WHEREAS, Comcast of Massachusetts II, Inc., (hereinafter "Licensee"), is the duly authorized holder of a renewal license to operate a cable television system in the Town of Franklin, Massachusetts (hereinafter the "Town"), said license having commenced on March 17, 1997;

WHEREAS, Licensee filed a written request for a renewal of its license by letter dated April 7, 2004 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:

**ARTICLE 1**  
**DEFINITIONS**

**SECTION 1.1 – DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this Renewal License, the following defined words, terms, phrases and their derivations and abbreviations 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 - The right or ability of any Franklin resident and/or any Persons affiliated with a Franklin 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.

(c) Affiliate or Affiliated Person - When used in relation to any Person, means another Person who owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, such Person.

(d) Basic Cable Service – shall mean the lowest tier of service which includes the retransmission of local television broadcast signals.

(e) Cable Act – 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 Franklin, consisting of

a set of closed transmission paths and associated signal generation, reception, and control equipment that is designated 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) Cable Division – shall mean the Cable Division of the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable established pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 166A (M.G.L. Chapter 166A).

(h) Cable Service – shall mean – (A) the one-way transmission to subscribers of (i) video programming, or (ii) other programming service, and (B) subscriber interaction, if any, which is required for the selection or use of such video programming or other programming service.

(i) Drop – 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 October 6, 2010.

(k) FCC – shall mean the Federal Communications Commission or any successor governmental entity.

(l) Franchise Fee – shall mean the payments to be made by Licensee to the Issuing Authority, the Town of Franklin and or any other governmental subdivision, such as an Access Provider, which shall have the meaning as set forth in Section 622(g) of the Cable Act.

(m) Gross Annual Revenues – The revenues received by the Licensee and/or its Affiliates from the operation of the Cable System to provide Cable Service, including, 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; 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 Generally Accepted Accounting Principles; 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) Issuing Authority – shall mean the Town Council of the Town of Franklin, Massachusetts, or the lawful designee thereof.

(o) Licensee – shall mean Comcast of Massachusetts II, Inc., or any successor or transferee in accordance with the terms and conditions in this Renewal License.

(p) License Fee – shall mean the payments to be made by Licensee to the Town of Franklin and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which shall have the meaning as set forth in M.G.L. c. 166A, § 9.



(q) Normal Business Hours – shall mean those hours during which most similar businesses in Franklin 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.

(r) Outlet – shall mean an interior receptacle that connects a television set to the Cable Television System.

(s) Pay Cable or Premium Services - Programming delivered for a fee or charge to Subscribers on a per-channel or group-of-channels basis.

(t) Pay-Per-View: - Programming delivered for a fee or charge to Subscribers on a per-program or per-event basis.

(u) PEG Access User or Access User – 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.

(v) PEG Access Programming – shall mean non-commercial programming produced by any Franklin 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.

(w) Person – 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.

(x) Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) Access Channel – A video channel which the Licensee shall make available as further provided for in this Renewal License, including to the Town of Franklin, the Town's designee(s), and 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.

(y) Public Buildings – 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.

(z) Public Way – 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 Franklin 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 Franklin 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.

(aa) Renewal License or License – shall mean this Renewal License and any amendments or modifications in accordance with the terms herein.

(ab) Standard Installation – The installation which can be completed using a Drop of up to two hundred feet (200') aerial or underground.

(ac) Subscriber – Any Person, firm, corporation or other entity who or which contracts with the Licensee for or lawfully receives, Cable Service provided by the Licensee.

(ad) Subscriber Network – shall mean the trunk and feeder signal distribution network over which video and audio signals are transmitted to Subscribers.

(ae) Town – shall mean the Town of Franklin, Massachusetts.

(af) Trunk and Distribution System – That portion of the Cable System for the delivery of Cable Services, but not including Drop Cable(s) to Subscriber's residences.

(ag) Video Programming or Programming – shall mean the programming provided by, or generally considered comparable to programming provided by, a television broadcast station.

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **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 the Issuing Authority hereby grants a non-exclusive Renewal License to Comcast of Massachusetts II, Inc., a Delaware corporation, authorizing and permitting Licensee to construct, operate and maintain a Cable Television System in the Public Way within the municipal limits of the Town of Franklin.

(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 Cable Division in force and effect during the period for which this Renewal License is granted.

(c) Subject to the terms and conditions herein, the Issuing Authority hereby grants to Licensee the right to construct, upgrade, install, operate and maintain a Cable Television System within the Public Way.

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

This term of this non-exclusive Renewal License shall be for a period of ten (10) years, commencing on October 6, 2010 and shall terminate at midnight on October 5, 2020.

#### **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.

(b) In accordance with applicable law, any such renewal or renewals shall be upon mutual written agreement by Licensee and the Issuing Authority and shall contain such terms as Licensee and the Issuing Authority may then 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 Franklin; 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) are 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 more 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.

## **SECTION 2.6 – 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 2.7 – 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) 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.

## **SECTION 2.8 – TRANSFER OF THE RENEWAL LICENSE**

(a) Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 166A, Section 7, as may be amended from time to time, neither the Renewal License, nor control thereof, shall be transferred, assigned or disposed of in any manner, voluntarily or involuntarily, directly or indirectly, or by transfer of control of any Person,

company and/or other entity holding such Renewal License to any other Person, company and/or other entity, without the prior written consent of the Issuing Authority, which consent shall not be arbitrarily or unreasonably withheld. Such consent shall be given only after a public hearing upon a written application therefore on forms as may be prescribed by the FCC and/or the Cable Division. An application for consent to a transfer or assignment, if required, shall be signed by the Licensee and by the proposed transferee or assignee or by their representatives, evidence of whose authority shall be submitted with the application. 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 this Renewal License, unless otherwise provided by applicable federal or state law. An "affiliated company" is any Person or entity who owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, such Person or entity.

(b) Pursuant to applicable state and federal law, as may be amended, in considering a request to transfer control of the Renewal License, the Issuing Authority shall consider the transferee's financial capability, management experience, technical expertise and legal ability to operate a Cable System under the existing license and may consider any other criteria allowable under applicable law or regulation.

(c) The consent or approval of the Issuing Authority to any assignment or transfer of the Renewal License granted to the Licensee shall not constitute a waiver or release of the rights of the Town in and to the streets and Public Ways or any other rights of the Town under the Renewal License, and any such transfer shall, by its terms, be expressly subordinate to the terms and conditions of the Renewal License.

(d) The Licensee shall submit to the Issuing Authority an original and one (1) copy, unless otherwise required by applicable law, of the application and FCC Form 394 requesting such transfer or assignment consent.

(e) The consent of the Issuing Authority shall be given only after a public hearing to consider the written application for transfer. Unless otherwise allowed by applicable law(s), the