

RENEWAL
CABLE TELEVISION LICENSE
FOR
THE CITY OF METHUEN,
MASSACHUSETTS

Comcast of Massachusetts I, Inc

Renewal Term: May 17, 2012 – May 16, 2022

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METHUEN RENEWAL LICENSE

INTRODUCTION

WHEREAS, Comcast of Massachusetts I, Inc., (hereinafter "Licensee"), is the duly authorized holder of a renewal license to operate a cable television system in the City of Methuen, Massachusetts (hereinafter the "City"), said license having commenced on July 10, 2001;

WHEREAS, Licensee filed a written request for a renewal of its license by letter dated June 16, 2009 in conformity with the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 ("Cable Act") and filed a renewal proposal March 9, 2011;

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

WHEREAS, the City's Mayor, as the Issuing Authority, finds that Licensee has complied with the terms of its previous license.

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, capitalized terms, phrases, words, and abbreviations shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, as amended from time to time, 47 U.S.C. §§ 521 et seq. (the “Cable Act”), and Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 166A (M.G.L.c.166A), as amended from time to time, unless otherwise defined herein.

(a) Access Provider – shall mean the person, group or entity, or non-profit organization, 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.

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

(c) 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.

(d) Cable Division – shall mean the Competition Division of the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable established pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 166A (M.G.L. Chapter 166A) or its successor

(e) Cable Service or Service – 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.

(f) Cable Television System or Cable System – shall mean the facility owned, constructed, installed, operated and maintained by Licensee in the City of Methuen, 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; or (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) City – shall mean the City of Methuen Massachusetts.

(h) Drop – shall mean the coaxial cable that connects a home or building to the Subscriber Network or Institutional Network.

(i) Effective Date – shall mean May 17, 2012

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

(k) Franchise Fee – shall mean the payments to be made by Licensee to the Issuing Authority, the City of Methuen 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.

(l) Gross Annual Revenues – shall mean revenues received by the Licensee from the carriage of Signals over the Cable Television System for the provision of Cable Service(s), calculated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, including, without limitation: the distribution of any Service over the Cable System; Basic Service monthly fees; all other Service fees; any and all Cable Service fees and/or Cable Service charges received from

Subscribers; installation, reconnection, downgrade, upgrade and any similar fees; all digital Cable Service revenues; fees paid on all Subscriber fees; all Commercial Subscriber revenues; fees paid for channels designated for leased access use; Converter, remote control and other equipment rentals, and/or leases or and/or sales; all home-shopping service(s) revenues; and advertising revenues (excluding commissions and agency fees). In the event that an Affiliate is responsible for advertising, advertising revenues shall be deemed to be the pro-rata portion of advertising revenues, paid to the Cable System by an Affiliate for said Affiliate'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 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 License Fees to the Town that would otherwise be paid herein. Gross Annual Revenues shall not include actual bad debt that is written off; 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.

(m) Issuing Authority – shall mean the Mayor of the City of Methuen, Massachusetts, or the lawful designee thereof.

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

(o) License Fee – shall mean the payments to be made by Licensee to the Issuing Authority, the City of Methuen and or any other governmental subdivision, which shall have the meaning as set forth in M.G.L.c. 166A, § 9.

(p) Modulator – shall mean CATV modulator or equivalent device used for video signal transport.

(q) Multichannel Video Programming Distributor – shall mean a person such as, but not limited to, a cable operator, a multichannel multipoint distribution service, a direct broadcast satellite service, or a television receive-only satellite program distributor, who makes available for purchase, by subscribers or customers, multiple channels of video programming.

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

(s) PEG Access User – shall mean a Person utilizing the Cable Television System, including all related facilities for purposes of production and/or transmission of PEG Access Programming as opposed to utilization solely as a Subscriber.

(t) 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.

(u) Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) Access Channel – shall mean a video channel designated for non-commercial use by the public, educational institutions such as public or private schools, but not “home schools,” community colleges, and universities, as well as for the Issuing Authority.

(v) Public, Educational and Government (PEG) Access Programming – shall mean non-commercial programming produced by any Methuen 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) Public Buildings – shall mean those buildings owned or leased by the City for municipal government administrative purposes, and shall not include buildings owned by City but leased to third parties or buildings such as storage facilities at which government employees are not regularly stationed.

(x) 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 City of Methuen, 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 City of Methuen 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.

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

(z) Signal – shall mean any transmission which carries Programming from one location to another.

(aa) Standard Installation – shall mean the standard one hundred twenty-five foot (125') aerial Drop connection to the existing distribution system.

(bb) Subscriber – shall mean a Person or user of the Cable System who lawfully receives Cable Service with Licensee's express permission.

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

(dd) Trunk and Distribution System – shall mean that portion of the Cable System for the delivery of Signals, but not including Drop Cable(s) to Subscriber's residences.

(ee) 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 I, 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 City of Methuen. 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 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 [SEE M.G.L.c. 166A §3(d) and 13]

The term of this non-exclusive Renewal License shall be for a period of ten (10) years and shall commence on May 17, 2012 following the expiration of the current license, and shall expire at midnight on May 16, 2022.

SECTION 2.3 - POLE AND CONDUIT ATTACHMENT RIGHTS [SEE M.G.L.c. 166 §22-25]

Pursuant to M.G.L.c. 166, §§22-25, permission is hereby granted to Licensee to attach or otherwise affix including, but not limited to cables, wire, or optical fibers comprising the Cable Television System to the existing poles and conduits on and under public streets and ways,

provided Licensee secures the permission and consent of the public utility companies to affix the cables and/or wires to their pole and conduit facilities. By virtue of this License the Issuing Authority grants Licensee equal standing with power and telephone utilities in the manner of placement of facilities on Public Ways.

SECTION 2.4 - RENEWAL [SEE M.G.L.c. 166A §13]

(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 modified or additional terms as Licensee and the Issuing Authority may then agree.

SECTION 2.5 - 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/ordinances 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 2.6 - NON-EXCLUSIVITY OF LICENSE

(a) Licensee acknowledges and agrees that the Issuing Authority reserves the right to grant one or more additional original licenses to other Cable Service providers within the City for the right to use and occupy the Public Ways or streets within the Issuing Authority's jurisdiction.

If any such additional or competitive original license is granted by the Issuing Authority which contains more financially favorable or less burdensome terms or conditions than this Renewal License, including, but not limited to: Franchise Fees; payment schedules, insurance; system build-out requirements; performance bonds or similar instruments; Public, Education and Government Access Channels and support; customer service standards; required reports and related record keeping; and notice and opportunity to cure breaches; the Issuing Authority agrees that it shall amend this Renewal License to include any more favorable or less burdensome terms or conditions.

(b) In the event an application for a new cable television license is filed with the Issuing Authority, proposing to serve the City, in whole or in part, the Issuing Authority shall serve a copy of such application upon any existing Licensee or incumbent cable operator by registered or certified mail or via nationally recognized overnight courier service within a reasonable time thereafter.

(c) To the extent allowed by applicable law(s), the grant of any additional cable television license(s) shall be on equivalent terms and conditions as those contained in this Renewal License.

(d) The issuance of additional license(s) shall be subject to all applicable federal and state laws, including M.G.L.c. 166A and applicable regulations promulgated thereunder.

(e) In the event that Licensee believes that any additional license(s) has been granted on terms or conditions more favorable or less burdensome than those contained in this Renewal License when taken as a whole, the Licensee may request the Issuing Authority to hold a public hearing on such issue, within not more than thirty (30) days of receipt of a hearing request from Licensee. Along with said written request, Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority with written reasons for its belief. At the public hearing, the Issuing Authority shall afford Licensee an opportunity to demonstrate that any such additional license(s) are on terms more favorable or less burdensome than those contained in this Renewal License. Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority with such financial or other relevant information as is requested.

(f) If the Issuing Authority finds that any such additional 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 make equitable amendments to this Renewal License within a reasonable time.

(g) In the event that Licensee demonstrates that an existing or future Cable Service provider in the City has been provided relief by the Issuing Authority from any material or financial obligation of its license, then Licensee shall be awarded an equivalent amount of relief from obligations herein. Such relief shall be in writing and in the form of an amendment to this License. The Issuing Authority shall convene a public hearing on the issue within sixty (60) days of Licensee's notification to the Issuing Authority requiring such relief, unless otherwise mutually agreed to. Licensee shall provide reasons for its belief in the notification. At the public hearing, the Issuing Authority shall afford Licensee an opportunity to demonstrate that any existing or future service providers in the City have been provided relief by the Issuing Authority from any obligation of its cable television license. Prior to such public hearing, the Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority with such financial or other relevant information as is requested to justify its belief; provided, however, that such information is not deemed proprietary.

(h) In the event that Cable Services are being provided to the City by any Person(s) or Multichannel Video Programming Distributor other than Licensee, which is not in any way an affiliate of Licensee, and such Person(s) or Multichannel Video Programming Distributor is not required by applicable law to be licensed by the Issuing Authority, and to the extent that Licensee reports to the Issuing Authority, in writing, that the providing of such Cable Services by such Person(s) or Multichannel Video Programming Distributor is having a negative financial impact upon Licensee's Cable System operations in the City, Licensee may request, in writing, that the Issuing Authority convene a public hearing on that issue. However, prior to convening a public hearing the Issuing Authority shall review all evidence to be provided by the Licensee in support of its position to determine the likelihood of such a negative financial impact. If such a

determination is made the Issuing Authority shall convene said hearing within thirty (30) days of receipt of a hearing request from Licensee.

- (i) Along with said written request, Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority with a written basis and written reasons for its determination of such negative impact. At the public hearing, the Issuing Authority shall afford Licensee an opportunity to present the basis and the reasons for its determination. Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority with such financial and other relevant information as is reasonably requested.
- (ii) Should Licensee demonstrate that the Cable Service(s) of such Person(s) is having a negative financial impact upon Licensee's Cable System operations in the City; the Issuing Authority shall make equitable amendments to this Renewal License.

