



September 6, 2024

Via Email

Town of Phillipston
Attn: Board of Selectmen
50 The Common
Phillipston, MA 01331

Re: Town of Phillipston– Cable Television Renewal License

Dear Chairman and Members of the Board:

Enclosed is the executed Cable Television Renewal License between the Town of Phillipston and Comcast which commenced July 24, 2024.

Please be advised of the following adjustments:

- Formal filing references on the cover and header pages of this document have been removed.
- Section 6.4(a) Peg Access Support references the first payment of 2.5%, under this renewal, is due Feb. 15, 2025 representing the period of the effective date (July 24, 2024) through December 31, 2024. However, because payments are based on a quarterly schedule the first payment due, under this renewal, is **November 15, 2024** representing the period of **effective date (July 24, 2024) through September 30, 2024**.
- Quarterly thereafter, Licensee shall provide payments each **February 15th, May 15th, August 15th and November 15th** based on revenues from the previous calendar quarter.
- The final payment, per Section 6.4(a), shall be made on **November 15, 2034** for the period of **July 1, 2034 through July 23, 2034**.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at Kerry_Morris@comcast.com.

Sincerely,

Kerry Morris

Kerry Morris, Sr. Manager
Government Relations

cc: Attorney Wm Hewig – KP Law, P.C.
Shonda Green – MA DTC (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)

RENEWAL
CABLE TELEVISION LICENSE
FOR
THE TOWN OF PHILLIPSTON,
MASSACHUSETTS

July 24, 2024 – July 23, 2034

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PHILLIPSTON RENEWAL LICENSE

INTRODUCTION

WHEREAS, **Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC**, (hereinafter "Licensee"), is the duly authorized holder of a renewal license to operate a cable television system in the **Town of Phillipston**, Massachusetts (hereinafter the "Town"), said license having commenced on **November 7, 2003**;

WHEREAS, Licensee filed a written request for a renewal of its license by letter dated **November 6, 2020** in conformity with the Cable Act and filed a renewal proposal **July 7, 2023**;

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 Town of Phillipston's Board of Selectmen, 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 Act, as amended from time to time, 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, designated at the discretion of 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 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.

(e) **Cable System or System** – shall mean the facility owned, constructed, installed, operated and maintained by Licensee in the Town of Phillipston, 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; 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.

(f) **Department or DTC** – shall mean the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable.

(g) **Drop** – shall mean the coaxial cable that connects a home or building to the Subscriber Network or Video Return Line.

(h) **Educational Access Channel** – shall mean the video channel(s) made available by the Licensee for non-commercial use by educational institutions such as public or private schools (grades k-12), but not “home schools,” community, public or private colleges or universities.

(i) **Effective Date** – shall mean **July 24, 2024**

(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 Phillipston 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.

(n) **Gross Annual Revenues** – (l) Gross Annual Revenues - shall mean all revenues derived by the Licensee and/or its Affiliates, calculated in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP"), from the operation of the Cable Television System for the provision of Cable Service(s) over the Cable Television System including, without limitation: the distribution of any Service over the Cable System; Basic Service monthly fees and all other Service fees; any and all Cable Service fees and/or charges received

from Subscribers; installation, reconnection, downgrade, upgrade and any similar fees; all digital Cable Service revenues; interest collected on Subscriber fees and/or charges; fees paid on all Subscriber fees ("Fee-on-Fee"); all Commercial Subscriber revenues; all Pay Cable, Pay-Per-View revenues; any other services now or in the future deemed to be lawful for purposes of computing Gross Annual Revenues by a court or forum of appropriate jurisdiction; video-on-demand Cable Services; fees paid for channels designated for commercial use; home-shopping revenues; Converter, remote control and other cable-related equipment rentals and/or leases and/or sales; and advertising revenues. In the event that an Affiliate and/or any other Person 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 or such other Person for said 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 received directly or indirectly from or in connection with the operation of the Cable System to the extent that said revenue is received, through a means which has the effect of avoiding payment of License Fees to the Town that would otherwise be paid herein. It is the intention of the parties hereto that Gross Annual Revenues shall only include such revenue of such Affiliates and/or Persons relating to Signal carriage over the Cable System and not the gross revenues of any such Affiliate(s) and/or Person(s) itself, where unrelated to such Signal carriage. 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.

(o) **Issuing Authority** – shall mean the Board of Selectmen of the **Town of Phillipston**, Massachusetts, or the lawful designee thereof.

(p) **Licensee** – shall mean Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC, or any successor or transferee in accordance with the terms and conditions in this Renewal License.

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

(r) **Modulator**: shall mean CATV modulator or equivalent device used for video signal transport.

(s) **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.

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

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

(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.

(y) **Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) Access Channel** – shall mean a video channel made available by the Licensee 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 the Issuing Authority.

(z) **Public, Educational and Government (PEG) Access Programming** – shall mean non-commercial programming produced by any 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) **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 Phillipston, 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 Phillipston 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.

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

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

(dd) **Standard Installation** – shall mean the standard two hundred fifty feet (250') aerial Drop connection to the existing distribution system.

(ee) **Subscriber** – shall mean a Person who lawfully receives Cable Service with Licensee's express permission.

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

(gg) **Town** – shall mean the **Town of Phillipston, Massachusetts.**

(hh) **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.

(ii) **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, the Cable Act and subject to the terms and conditions herein the Issuing Authority hereby grants a non-exclusive Renewal License to Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC, authorizing and permitting Licensee to construct, operate and maintain a Cable 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 Department in force and effect during the period for which this Renewal License is granted.

SECTION 2.2 – TERM OF LICENSE

The term of this **non-exclusive** Renewal License shall be for a period of **ten (10) years** and shall commence on **July 24, 2024**, following the expiration of the current license, and shall expire at midnight on **July 23, 2033**.

SECTION 2.3 - POLE AND CONDUIT ATTACHMENT RIGHTS

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 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

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 periods not to exceed ten (10) years or such other periods as allowed by law and shall be upon mutual written agreement with such modified or additional terms as Licensee and the Issuing Authority may 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 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. This License is a contract and except as to those changes which are the result of the Issuing Authority's lawful exercise of its general police power, the Issuing Authority may not take any unilateral action which materially changes the explicit mutual promises in this License. Any changes to this License must be made in writing signed by the Licensee and the Issuing Authority. In the event of any conflict between this License and any Issuing Authority ordinance or regulation that is not generally applicable, such conflict will be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction. Notwithstanding any other provision of this License, Licensee reserves the right to challenge provisions of any ordinance, rule, regulation, or other enactment of the Issuing Authority that conflicts with its contractual rights under this License, either now or in the future.

SECTION 2.6 - NON-EXCLUSIVITY

(a) Licensee acknowledges and agrees that the Issuing Authority reserves the right to grant one or more additional licenses to other Cable Service providers within the Town for the right to use and occupy the Public Ways or streets within the Town. If any such additional or competitive license is granted by the

Issuing Authorities which, in the reasonable opinion of Licensee, contains more financially favorable or less burdensome terms or conditions than this Renewal License, including, but not limited to: franchise fees; insurance; system build-out requirements; performance bonds or similar instruments; PEG 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 following the procedure set forth in subparagraphs (e), (f) and (g) below.

(b) 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 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 material 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 materially more favorable or less burdensome than those contained in this Renewal License, the Issuing Authority shall convene 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 reasonably requested.

(f) Should Licensee demonstrate 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, following the procedures for license amendment set forth by law and regulation.

ARTICLE 3

SYSTEM SPECIFICATIONS AND CONSTRUCTION

SECTION 3.1 - AREA TO BE SERVED [SEE M.G.L. c. 166A §3(a)]

(a) Licensee shall make Cable Service available to every residential dwelling unit within the town where the minimum density is at least **fifteen (15) dwelling units per aerial mile and thirty (30) dwelling units per underground mile** providing however, that any plant extension is measured from the existing Trunk and Distribution System and Licensee is able to obtain from property owners any necessary easements and/or permits in accordance with Cable Act. Licensee shall make service available to multiple dwelling units (MDU) where economically feasible and providing that Licensee is able to obtain from the property owners any necessary easements, permits and agreements to provide service to said MDU. Subject to the density requirement, Licensee shall offer Cable Service to all new homes or previously unserved homes located within **two hundred fifty feet (250')** of Licensee's Distribution Cable and/or within two hundred fifty underground feet **(250')** of said Distribution Cable. For non-Standard Installations Licensee shall offer said service within **ninety (90) days** of a Subscriber requesting such for aerial installations and **ninety (90) days** weather permitting, of a Subscriber requesting such for underground installations. With respect to areas of the town which are currently served by Licensee from a contiguous cable television system or currently unserved but could be served by abutting City(s) served by Licensee, Licensee shall have the option to serve such areas from its cable television system in such abutting town.

(b) Installation costs shall conform with the Cable Act. Any dwelling unit within an aerial **two hundred and fifty-feet (250 ft.)** of the Trunk and Distribution System shall be entitled to a Standard Installation rate in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. Underground installs are considered non-standard installations. All non-standard installations shall be provided at a rate established by the Licensee in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. The Standard Installation rate will apply to underground installations that require approximately the same labor and materials as a standard aerial installation requires.

(c) 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 installation of conduit for the location of utilities, may install its cable in such trenching or conduits or shall 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.

SECTION 3.2 – NONSTANDARD INSTALLATION

For any installation beyond the 250 ft standard setback the subscriber will pay only the installation costs in excess of standard cost of 250 ft installation.

SECTION 3.3 DROPS & MONTHLY SERVICE TO PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC 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 A**, 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.

SECTION 3.4- SUBSCRIBER NETWORK

Licensee shall maintain a Cable Television System, fully capable of providing Cable Service in accordance with applicable law, and at a minimum bandwidth of 750 MHz.

SECTION 3.5 - 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 converter box.

SECTION 3.6---EMERGENCY ALERT OVERRIDE CAPACITY

Licensee shall comply with the FCC's Emergency Alert System ("EAS") regulations.

ARTICLE 4

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 state and federal laws, bylaws/ordinances, 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 and safe operation of all 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.

(e) The signal of any Broadcast station carried on the Cable Television System shall be carried without material degradation in quality at all subscribing locations within the limits imposed by the technical specifications of the Cable System and as set forth by the FCC. The Cable System shall be operated and maintained so as to comply with the technical standards set forth in the FCC's rules and regulations as they apply to cable television systems.

(f) Upon written notice from the Issuing Authority, Licensee shall remedy a general deficiency with respect to the technical standards described herein within three (3) months of

receipt of notice and a safety deficiency within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of notice and shall notify the Issuing Authority when the deficiency has been corrected.

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.

SECTION 4.3 - CABLE LOCATION

(a) In all areas of the Town where all of the transmission and distribution facilities of all public or municipal utilities are installed underground, Licensee shall install its Cable System underground, provided that such facilities are actually capable of receiving the Licensee's cable and other equipment without technical degradation of the Cable System's signal quality.

(b) In all areas of the Town where public utility lines are aurally placed, if subsequently during the term of the Renewal License such public utility lines are required by the Issuing Authority or State to be relocated aurally or underground, Franchisee shall similarly relocate its Cable System if it is given reasonable notice and access to the public and municipal utilities facilities at the time that such are placed underground. Any **reasonable** costs incurred by Licensee for relocating the Cable System shall be reimbursed to Licensee in the event public or private funds are raised for the project and made available to other users of the Public Way.

(c) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to require 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

Licensee shall have authority to trim trees upon and overhanging public streets, alleys, sidewalks and ways and places of the Town 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 – STRAND MAPS

Upon written request, the Licensee shall file with the Issuing Authority strand maps of the Cable System plant installed. Upon written request such strand maps shall also be provided in electronic format if they exist in such. The Licensee shall not be required to provide a particular type of electronic format which is different from the electronic format maintained by the Licensee.

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.

(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 applicable “dig safe” provisions pursuant to M.G.L.c. 82, § 40.

SECTION 4.8 - DISCONNECTION AND RELOCATION

(a) In accordance with applicable law, 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 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 lawful 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.

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 Issuing Authority 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, provided however that, wherever possible, the Issuing Authority shall give Licensee written notice and the ability to relocate wires, cable or other equipment.

(b) Licensee shall have the right to reimbursement 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.

SECTION 4.10 – STANDBY POWER

The Licensee shall maintain at least **two- and one-half hour** standby power at the hub facility, any sub-headend facilities, critical trunk areas, and fiber nodes. Such standby power shall have continuous capability, contingent upon availability of fuel necessary to operate the generators, which shall become activated automatically upon the failure of the normal power supply. Licensee will comply with local Fire Department to facilitate inspections as may reasonably be necessary to ensure the safety of such equipment and adjacent properties. Licensee shall comply with all lawful orders of such local fire department regarding the safe maintenance and operation of its standby power equipment.

SECTION 4.11 – PROHIBITION OF WIRES FROM OBSTRUCTING ROAD OR FOOT TRAFFIC

The Licensee shall at all times maintain its wires in such condition so as not to interfere with road or foot traffic. Licensee shall periodically inspect all wires to ensure this requirement is strictly and continually met. Low wires obstructing road or foot traffic, or loose or disconnected wires, shall be corrected, replaced or removed immediately upon discovery by Licensee, or upon a report to Licensee from any source.

Section 4.12 – PERFORMANCE EVALUATION HEARINGS

(a) The Issuing Authority may hold a performance evaluation hearing in each year of the Renewal License, conducted by the Issuing Authority and/or its designee(s). All such evaluation hearings shall be open to the public. The purpose of said evaluation hearing shall be to, among other things, (i) review the Licensee's compliance with the terms and conditions of the Renewal License, with emphasis on PEG Access Channels, facilities and support, customer service and Complaint response; and (ii) hear comments, suggestions and/or Complaints from the public.

(b) The Issuing Authority and/or its designees shall have the right to question the Licensee on any aspect of the Renewal License including, but not limited to, the maintenance, operation and/or removal of the Cable Television System. During review and evaluation by the Issuing Authority, the Licensee shall fully

cooperate with the Issuing Authority and/or its designee(s) and produce such documents or other materials relevant to such review and evaluation as are reasonably requested from the Town. Any Subscriber or other Person may submit comments during such review hearing, either orally or in writing, and such comments shall be duly considered by the Issuing Authority.

(c) If noncompliance is found, the Issuing Authority shall, within sixty (60) days after the conclusion of such review hearing(s), proceed with the Notice and Opportunity to Cure procedures pursuant to Section 9.8 herein. If no such action is taken pursuant to said Section 9.8 herein by the Issuing Authority, the allegation of noncompliance shall be deemed unfounded.

**ARTICLE 5
PROGRAMMING**

SECTION 5.1 – BASIC CABLE SERVICE

Licensee shall make available a Basic Cable Service tier to all subscribers in accordance with 47 U.S.C. 534.

SECTION 5.2 – PROGRAMMING

(a) Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 544, Licensee shall maintain broad categories of Video Programming. Pursuant to federal law, all Video Programming decisions, excluding PEG Access Programming, are at the sole discretion of Licensee.

(b) Licensee shall comply with applicable FCC Rules and Regulations as well as DTC Rules and Regulations regarding notice of programming changes. Advance notice shall not be required for the launch of new channels when offered on a subscription basis or added to an existing service tier at no additional cost to the customer. Written notices required by this section may be provided electronically as permitted by 47 C.F.R. § 76.1600.

SECTION 5.3 – CABLE CHANNELS FOR COMMERCIAL USE

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 532, Licensee shall make available channel capacity for commercial use by persons unaffiliated with Licensee. Rates for use of commercial leased 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 5.4 – 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 5.5 – STEREO TV TRANSMISSIONS

All Broadcast Signals that are transmitted to Licensee's headend in stereo shall be transmitted in stereo to Subscribers.

ARTICLE 6

PEG ACCESS CHANNEL(S) AND SUPPORT

SECTION 6.1 – PEG ACCESS CHANNEL(S)

(a) Use of a video channel for PEG Access Programming shall be provided in accordance with federal law, 47 U.S.C. 531, and as further set forth herein. 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, and may not rely on the continued use of a particular channel number, no matter how long the same channel may have been designated for such use. Licensee shall not exercise editorial control over any public, educational, or governmental use of a PEG Access Channel, except Licensee may refuse to transmit any Public Access program that contains obscenity, indecency, or nudity pursuant to Section 611 of the Cable Act. The Issuing Authority shall be responsible for developing, implementing, interpreting and enforcing rules for PEG Access Channel use which shall ensure that PEG Access Channel(s) and PEG Access equipment will be available on a first-come non-discriminatory basis.

(b) Licensee shall continue to make available **one (1) channel** for PEG Access Programming purposes. A PEG Access Channel may not be used to cablecast for-profit, political or commercial fundraising programs in any fashion. Unused capacity may be utilized by Licensee subject to the provisions set forth in subsection (c) below.

(c) In the event the Issuing Authority or Access Provider elects not to fully program a PEG Access Channel(s) with original PEG Access Programming, Licensee may reclaim any unused time on those channels, provided that Licensee shall give the Town six (6) months' notice along with the opportunity to cure within the same six month period.

(d) Upon written request and subject to prior payment by the town or its Access Provider as set out within, the Licensee shall make available **one (1) High Definition** PEG Access channel for PEG Access purposes, which shall replace **one (1)** current PEG channel and said HD Access Channel shall be designated

for Public, Educational and or Governmental use as determined by the Issuing Authority. Said HD PEG Access channel shall be made available within twenty-four (24) months of the Effective Date of this Renewal License, or at such later time as the Issuing Authority shall determine.

(e) 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.

SECTION 6.2 - PEG ACCESS PROVIDER

In the event that the Issuing Authority designates an Access Provider, Access Provider shall provide some or all of the following services to PEG Access Users and the Town as follows:

- (1) Schedule, operate and program the PEG Access channel provided in accordance with Section 6.3 below;
- (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 6.4 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, implement and enforce 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 PEG Access Users in the production of PEG Access Programming of interest to Subscribers;
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 downstream PEG Access Channel, all PEG Access Programming shall be modulated, then transmitted from an origination location listed in **Exhibit A** (Town Hall 50 The Common) to Licensee-owned headend or hub-site on a Licensee-owned upstream channel made available, without charge, to the Town for its use. At Licensee-owned headend, said PEG Access Programming shall be retransmitted in the downstream direction on one Licensee-owned Subscriber Network downstream PEG Access Channels.

(b) Licensee shall provide and maintain all necessary switching and/or processing equipment located at its hub-site or headend in order to switch upstream signals carrying PEG Access Programming from the location listed in **Exhibit A** to the designated Licensee-owned Subscriber Network downstream PEG Access Channel.

(c) Licensee shall own, maintain, repair and/or replace any Licensee-owned headend or hub-site or locations in Exhibit A audio and/or video signal processing equipment. The Town and/or PEG Access Provider shall own, maintain, repair and/or replace studio portable modulators and demodulators. The demarcation point between Licensee's equipment and the **Town of Phillipston** or PEG Access Provider's equipment shall be at the output of the **Town of Phillipston** and/or the PEG Access Provider's modulator(s) or equivalent device at any of the origination locations in Exhibit A.

SECTION 6.4 – PEG ACCESS SUPPORT

(a) Licensee shall provide a Franchise Fee to the Issuing Authority, or its designee, for PEG Access purposes, equal to **two and a half percent (2.5%)** of its Gross Annual Revenues, less applicable License Fees and assessments from any state or other governmental agencies. Said Franchise Fee shall be used for salaries, operating and other expenses related to PEG Access programming operations. Said **two and a half percent (2.5%)** Franchise Fee shall be made to the Issuing Authority, or its designee, on a quarterly basis. The first payment shall be made on **February 15, 2025** for the period of effective date through **December 31, 2024**. Quarterly thereafter, Licensee shall provide payments each **February 15th, May 15th, August 15th and November 15th** based on revenues from the previous calendar quarter. The final payment shall be made on **February 15, 2034** for the period of **July 24, 2024 through July 23, 2034**. Each such quarterly payment shall be accompanied by a certification that the revenues upon which the percentage payment is based. Upon written request of the Issuing Authority Licensee will reduce the **2.5%** GAR quarterly payment to a lower amount specified by the Issuing Authority.

(b) The Licensee shall provide **Sixteen Thousand Dollars (\$16,000)** in capital funding to the Issuing Authority or its designee for PEG Access facilities and/or equipment purposes to be paid by the Licensee within ninety (90) days of the Effective Date of this Renewal License.

(c) In accordance with State and/or Federal law, the Issuing Authority may, at its discretion, after holding a public hearing, direct the Licensee to decrease or to eliminate altogether the Franchise Fee that is required pursuant to Section 6.1 (a) or this paragraph (c) of Section 6.1. Any directive to the Licensee made pursuant to this paragraph (c) by the Issuing Authority shall be submitted to the Licensee in writing and the Licensee shall have up to one hundred and twenty (120) days after receipt of said written directive to implement such a change to the Franchise Fee then currently in place. The Issuing Authority may direct the Licensee to increase, decrease or eliminate the Franchise Fee required pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (c) of this Section 6.1 no more than two times during the term of this renewal License.

(d) The capital funding provided herein by the Licensee shall not be counted toward: (i) the annual support provided by the Licensee pursuant to Section 6.4 (a) above; or (ii) the License Fee payment payable pursuant to Section 7.1 below.

SECTION 6.5 - PROGRAMMING EXCLUSIVITY AND NON-COMPETITION

The Issuing Authority, or its designee, agrees that it will not use its designated PEG Access channel(s), equipment, or other facilities to provide for-profit commercial services which have the effect of competing with Licensee's business. In addition, any Video Programming produced under the provisions of this Article 6 shall not be commercially distributed to a competing Multichannel Video Programming Distributor without the written consent of Licensee.

SECTION 6.6— INTERCONNECTION WITH COMPETING CABLE LICENSEE

In the event a License is issued by the Issuing Authority to a competing Licensee, the competing Licensee may not connect its system to Licensee's Cable System for purposes of obtaining PEG Access Programming from the Licensee's PEG Access channels without the prior written consent of Licensee.

SECTION 6.7 - PEG ACCESS PROGRAMMING INDEMNIFICATION

The Issuing Authority and/or the Access Provider shall indemnify the Licensee for any liability, loss or damage it may suffer due to violation of the intellectual property rights of third parties or arising out of the content of programming aired on any PEG channel and from claims arising out of the Issuing Authority's rules for or administration of PEG Access Programming.

SECTION 6.8- NARRAGANSETT REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL ACCESS CHANNEL

Licensee shall continue to make available the **Narragansett Regional High School Educational Access Channel** to the **Town of Phillipston** channel line-up.

ARTICLE 7

CUSTOMER SERVICE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SECTION 7.1 - CUSTOMER SERVICE

Licensee shall comply with all customer service regulations of the FCC (47 CFR §76.309) and the Billing and Business Practice standards of the Department as they exist or as they may be amended.

SECTION 7.2 - CONSUMER COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Complaints by any Person as to the operation of the Cable System may be filed in writing with the Department or with the Issuing Authority, each of which shall within ten (10) days forward copies of such complaints to the other. 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 7.3 - SUBSCRIBERS' ANTENNAS - SWITCHING DEVICES [SEE M.G.L.c. 166 §5(h)]

Licensee shall not remove any television antenna of any Subscriber but shall, at Licensee's actual cost, offer an adequate switching device to allow the Subscriber to choose between cable television and non-cable reception.

SECTION 7.4 - SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS [SEE M.G.L.c. 166A §5(1)]

In the event that Licensee's service to any Subscriber is completely interrupted for twenty-four (24) or more consecutive hours, Licensee will grant such Subscriber a pro rata credit or rebate upon request, on a daily basis, of that portion of the service charge during the next consecutive billing cycle, or at its option, apply such credit to any outstanding balance then currently due. In the instance of other individual

Subscriber service interruptions, credits shall be applied as described above after due notice to Licensee from the Subscriber.

SECTION 7.5 – MONITORING [SEE 47 USC 551]

Neither Licensee nor its designee nor the Issuing Authority nor its designee shall, without a court order, tap, monitor, arrange for the tapping or monitoring, or permit any person to tap or monitor, any cable, line, signal, input device, or Subscriber Outlet or receiver for any purpose, without the prior written authorization of the affected Subscriber or user, unless otherwise required by applicable law, provided, however, that Licensee may conduct system-wide or individually addressed “sweeps” solely for the purpose of verifying system integrity, checking for illegal taps, controlling return-path transmission, billing for pay services or monitoring channel usage in a manner not inconsistent with the Cable Act. Licensee shall report to the affected parties any instances of monitoring or tapping of the Cable Television System, or any part thereof, of which it has knowledge, whether or not such activity has been authorized by Licensee. Licensee shall not record or retain any information transmitted between a Subscriber or user and any third party, except as required for lawful business purposes.

SECTION 7.6 - PROTECTION OF SUBSCRIBER PRIVACY

Licensee shall comply with applicable federal and state privacy laws and regulations, including 47 U.S.C. 551.

SECTION 7.7 - EMPLOYEE IDENTIFICATION CARDS

All of Licensee’s employees, including repair and sales personnel, entering private property shall be required to carry an employee photo identification card issued by Licensee.

SECTION 7.8 – POLLING [SEE 47 USC 551]

No poll or other upstream response of a Subscriber or user shall be conducted or obtained, unless: 1) the program of which the upstream response is a part contains an explicit disclosure of

the nature, purpose and prospective use of the results of the poll or upstream response, and 2) the program has an informational, entertainment or educational function which is self-evident. Licensee or its designees shall release the results of upstream responses only in the aggregate and without individual references.

SECTION 7.9- PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth in this License, Licensee shall not be required to disclose information which it reasonably deems to be proprietary or confidential in nature. To the extent permitted by law, the Licensee shall not be required to provide Subscriber information in violation of 47 U.S.C. 551 or any other applicable federal or state privacy law. For purposes of this Section, the terms "proprietary or confidential" include, but are not limited to, information relating to the Cable System design, customer lists, marketing plans, financial information unrelated to the calculation of franchise fees or rates pursuant to FCC rules, or other information that is reasonably determined by Licensee to be competitively sensitive. In the event that the Issuing Authority receives a request under a state "sunshine," public records or similar law for the disclosure of information Licensee has designated as confidential, trade secret or proprietary, the Issuing Authority shall notify Licensee of such request and cooperate to the extent permitted by law with Licensee in opposing such request.

ARTICLE 8

PRICES AND CHARGES

SECTION 8.1 – PRICES 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) 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.

ARTICLE 9

REGULATORY OVERSIGHT

SECTION 9.1 – INDEMNIFICATION

Licensee shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Issuing Authority, its officers, employees, and agents from and against any liability or claims resulting from property damage or bodily injury (including accidental death) that arise out of Licensee's construction, operation, maintenance or removal of the Cable System, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees and costs, provided that the Issuing Authority shall give Licensee timely (best efforts of 10 business days) written notice of its obligation to indemnify and defend the Issuing Authority within the timely receipt of a claim or action pursuant to this Section. If the Issuing Authority determines that it is necessary for it to employ separate counsel, the costs for such separate counsel shall be the responsibility of the Issuing Authority. The Licensee shall not be required to Indemnify the Issuing Authority for any claims resulting from acts of willful misconduct or negligence on the part of the Issuing Authority.

SECTION 9.2 – INSURANCE

(a) Licensee shall carry Commercial General Liability insurance throughout the term of this Renewal License and any removal period pursuant to M.G.L.c. 166A, § 5(c) with an insurance company authorized to conduct business in Massachusetts protecting, as required in this Renewal License, Licensee and listing the Town as an additional insured, against any and all claims for injury or damage to persons or property, both real and personal, caused by the construction, installation, operation, maintenance or removal of its Cable System. The amount of such insurance against liability for personal injury and property damage shall be no less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) as to any one occurrence. The amount of such insurance for excess liability shall be Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) in umbrella form.

(b) Licensee shall carry insurance against all claims arising out of the operation of motor vehicles in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) combined single limit for bodily injury and consequent death and property damage per occurrence;

c All insurance coverage, including Workers' Compensation, shall be maintained throughout the period of this Renewal License. All expenses incurred for said insurance shall be at the sole expense of Licensee.

(d) Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority upon request with certificate(s) of insurance for all policies required herein upon expiration of policies.

SECTION 9.3 - 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:

- (1) 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).

SECTION 9.4 - LICENSE FEES

(a) During the term of the Renewal License the annual License Fee payable to the Issuing Authority shall be the maximum allowable by law, per Subscriber served as of the last day of the preceding

calendar year, payable on or before March 15th of the said year. Pursuant to M.G.L.c. 166A, § 9, this fee is currently fifty cents (\$.50) per Subscriber.

(b) In accordance with Section 622(b) of the Cable Act, Licensee shall not be liable for a total financial commitment pursuant to this Renewal License and applicable law in excess of five percent (5%) of its Gross Annual Revenues; provided, however, that said five percent (5%) shall include (i) the PEG Access Annual Support (Section 6.4) and (ii) any amounts included in the term “Franchise Fee” pursuant to Section 622(g)(1) of the Cable Act), but shall not include the following: (i) PEG Access Capital Support (Section 6.5) (ii) interest due herein to the Issuing Authority because of late payments; and (iii) any other exclusion to the term “Franchise Fee” pursuant to Section 622(g)(2) of the Cable Act.

(c) All payments by Licensee to the Town pursuant to this Section shall be made payable to the Town unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the parties.

SECTION 9.5 - REPORTS

(a) Licensee shall file annually with the Cable Division on forms prescribed by the Cable Division, a sworn statement of its revenues and expenses for official use only. In addition, Licensee shall also file with the Cable Division, a financial balance sheet and statement of ownership which shall be supplied upon written request of the Issuing Authority. These requirements shall be subject to the regulations of the Cable Division. In addition, Licensee shall also file annually with the DTC, and by copy to the Issuing Authority, a Form 500 report of complaints received and how the complaint was handled.

(b) In addition, Licensee shall maintain for public inspection all records required by the FCC and as specified in 47 CFR §76.305 in the manner prescribed therein.

SECTION 9.6 - EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Licensee is an Equal Opportunity Employer and shall comply with applicable FCC regulations with respect to Equal Employment Opportunities.

SECTION 9.7 - REVOCATION OF LICENSE

The License issued hereunder may, after due written notice and hearing per Section 9.8 (Notice and Opportunity to Cure), be revoked by the Issuing Authority or the Department for any of the following reasons:

(a) For false or misleading statements in, or material omissions from, the application submitted under M.G.L.c. 166A, § 4;

(b) For failure to file and maintain the performance bond as described in Section 9.3 (Performance Bond) or to maintain insurance as described in Section 9.2 (Insurance);

(c) For repeated failure to comply with the material terms and conditions herein required by M.G.L.c. 166A, §5;

(d) For repeated failure, as determined by the Cable Division to maintain signal quality pursuant to the standards provided for by the FCC;

(e) For any transfer or assignment of the Renewal License or control thereof without consent of the Issuing Authority in violation of Section 9.9 herein;

(f) For failure to complete construction in accordance with the provisions of the Renewal License; and

(g) For repeated failure, by the Issuing Authority, to comply with the material terms and conditions required by MGLc.166A, §5.

SECTION 9.8 - NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE

If the Issuing Authority has reason to believe that Licensee has defaulted in the performance of any or several material provisions of this Renewal License, except as excused by Force Majeure, the Issuing Authority shall notify Licensee in writing, by certified mail, of the material provision or provisions which the Issuing Authority believes may have been in default and the details relating thereto. 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 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 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. Licensee shall report to the Issuing Authority, in writing, by certified mail, at thirty (30) day intervals as to Licensee's efforts, indicating the steps taken by Licensee to cure said default and reporting Licensee's progress until such default is cured.

(c) In the event that (i) Licensee fails to respond to such notice of default; and/or (ii) Licensee fails to cure the default or to take reasonable steps to cure the default within the required thirty 30day 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 Licensee. Licensee shall be provided reasonable opportunity to offer evidence, question witnesses, if any, and be heard at such public hearing.

(d) Within thirty (30) 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 Licensee is in such default, the Issuing Authority may determine to pursue any lawful remedy available to it.

(e) If (i) the Issuing Authority fails to issue a written reply within 30 days accepting or rejecting Licensees' response pursuant to 9.8(a) above; (ii) the Issuing Authority fails to issue a written acknowledgement after Licensee's notice that it cured said default pursuant to 9.8(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 9.8(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 9.8(d) above , then the issue of said default against Licensee by the Issuing Authority shall be considered null and void.

SECTION 9.9 - TRANSFER OR ASSIGNMENT

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 9.10 – LIQUIDATED DAMAGES

(a) For the violation of any of the following provisions of this Renewal License, liquidated damages shall be paid by the Licensee to the Issuing Authority; provided, however, that liquidated damages cannot be imposed unless and until the Issuing Authority has followed the notice and opportunities to cure provisions in Section 9.8. Any such liquidated damages shall only be assessed, after a full finding of default according to the provisions of Section 9.8, effective beginning as of the date of a public hearing on the notice of default scheduled by the Issuing Authority in accordance with Section 9.8 above. The liquidated damages shall be assessed in the following manner:

(i) For failure to operate and maintain the Cable System, in accordance with Article 3, Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) per day, for each day that such non-compliance continues;

(ii) For failure to comply with the FCC Customer Service Obligations, and the consumer protection regulations promulgated by Cable Division at 207 CMR §10.00 et seq. and as set forth in Article 7, Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per day that any such non-compliance continues;

(iii) For failure to comply with PEG Access support requirements of Article 6, One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per day that each such non-compliance continues;

(b) Such liquidated damages shall be in addition to, and not a limitation upon, any other provisions of this Renewal License and applicable law, including revocation, or any other statutorily or judicially imposed penalties or remedies; provided, however, that in the event that the Issuing Authority collects liquidated damages for a specific breach pursuant to Section 9.9 above, the collection of such liquidated damages shall be deemed to be the exclusive remedy for said specific breach.

(c) Licensee shall have thirty (30) days from receipt of written notice from the Issuing Authority to pay the liquidated damages; provided, however, that Licensee may appeal (by pursuing administrative, judicial

or other relief afforded by the Issuing Authority) any assessment of liquidated damages within thirty (30) days of receiving written notice of the assessment.

(d) Each of the above-mentioned cases of non-compliance in this Section 9.9 shall result in damage to the Town, its residents, businesses and institutions, compensation for which will be difficult to ascertain. The Licensee agrees that the liquidated damages in the amounts set forth above are fair and reasonable compensation for such damage. The Licensee agrees that said foregoing amounts are liquidated damages, not a penalty for forfeiture, and are within one or more exclusions to the term “franchise fee” provided by Section 622(g)(2)(A)-(E) of the Cable Act.

(e) Liquidated damages in any calendar year shall not exceed a cap of 120 days, provided however that the Issuing Authority retains all other legal rights and remedies, including without limitation specific performance and injunction, for failure to comply with the License Agreement.

SECTION 9.11 - REMOVAL OF SYSTEM

Upon termination of this Renewal License or denial of any renewal hereof by passage of time or otherwise in accordance with applicable law and after all appeals from any judicial determination are exhausted and final, Licensee shall remove its supporting structures, poles, transmission and distribution systems and other appurtenances from the streets, ways, lanes, alleys, parkways, bridges, highways, and other public and private places in, over, under, or along which they are installed and shall restore the areas to their original condition. If such removal is not completed within six (6) months of such termination, the Issuing Authority or property owner may deem any property not removed as having been abandoned. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the parties reserve any and all rights they may have under the cable act with respect to the disposition of the cable system in connection with the termination of this renewal license as a result of the license not being renewed or otherwise lawfully terminated.

SECTION 9.12 - INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

(a) All presently and hereafter applicable conditions and requirements of federal and state laws, including but not limited to M.G.L.c. 166A, and the rules and regulations of the FCC and the Department, as they may be amended, are incorporated herein by reference, to the extent not enumerated herein.

(b) Should the State, the federal government or the FCC require Licensee to perform or refrain from performing any act the performance or non-performance of which is inconsistent with any provisions herein, the Issuing Authority and Licensee will thereupon, if they determine that a material provision herein is affected, modify any of the provisions herein to reflect such government action.

SECTION 9.13 - 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.

ARTICLE 10
MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 10.1 - 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 10.2 - 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, environmental restrictions, 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 10.3 - NOTICES

(a) Every notice to be served upon the Issuing Authority shall be sent by certified mail, nationally recognized overnight courier service or other means as allowed by applicable law and providing for a receipt

as proof of delivery to the following address or such other address as the Issuing Authority may specify in writing to Licensee.

Town of Phillipston
Attn: Board of Selectmen
50 The Common
Phillipston, MA 01331

(b) Every notice served upon Licensee shall be delivered or sent by certified mail (postage prepaid) or nationally recognized overnight courier service 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 10.4 - 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 signed by the Issuing Authority and the Licensee.

SECTION 10.5 - 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 10.6 - WARRANTIES

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

- (a) Licensee is duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State;
 - (b) 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 to this Renewal License and to take all actions necessary to perform all of its obligations pursuant to this Renewal License;
 - (c) This Renewal License is enforceable against Licensee in accordance with the provisions herein;
- and
- (d) There is no action or proceedings pending or threatened against Licensee which would interfere with performance of this Renewal License.

SECTION 10.7 - APPLICABILITY OF RENEWAL LICENSE

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

SIGNATURE PAGE

WITNESS OUR HANDS AND OFFICIAL SEAL, THIS 24th DAY OF

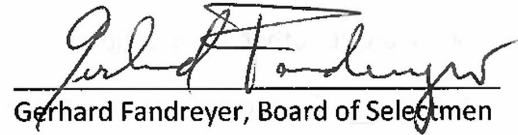
July 2024

TOWN OF PHILLIPSTON, MA

By:



Bernard Malouin, Chairman, Board of Selectmen



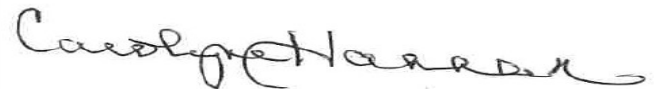
Gerhard Fandreyer, Board of Selectmen



Nicole Gough, Board of Selectmen

**COMCAST CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGEMENT, LLC**

By:



Carolyne Hannan, Regional Senior Vice President
New England Region

EXHIBIT A

CABLE DROPS TO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Town Hall, 50 The Common Town Hall

Annex -15 Templeton Road (physical address)/50 The Common (mailing address)

Police Dept.- 40 The Common (physical address)/50 The Common (mailing address)

Fire Department- 90 State Road

Memorial Building- 20 The Common

Transfer Station- 60 Templeton Road

Highway Department- 70 Templeton Road

Public Safety Complex- 90 State Road

Public Library- 25 Templeton Road

EXHIBIT B

FCC TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

TITLE 47—TELECOMMUNICATION

CHAPTER I--FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

PART 76--MULTICHANNEL VIDEO AND CABLE TELEVISION SERVICE

§ 76.605 Technical standards.

(a) As of December 30, 1992, unless otherwise noted, the following requirements apply to the performance of a cable television system as measured at any subscriber terminal with a matched impedance at the termination point or at the output of the modulating or processing equipment (generally the headend) of the cable television system or otherwise as noted. The requirements are applicable to each NTSC or similar video downstream cable television channel in the system:

(1)(i) The cable television channels delivered to the subscriber's terminal shall be capable of being received and displayed by TV broadcast receivers used for off-the-air reception of TV broadcast signals, as authorized under part 73 of this chapter; and

(ii) Cable television systems shall transmit signals to subscriber premises equipment on frequencies in accordance with the channel allocation plan set forth in the Electronics Industries Association's "Cable Television Channel Identification Plan, EIA IS-132, May 1994" (EIA IS-132). This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 522(a) and 1 CFR Part 51. Cable systems are required to use this channel allocation plan for signals transmitted in the frequency range 54 MHz to 1002 MHz. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 522(a) and 1 CFR Part 51. Copies of EIA IS-132 may be obtained from: Global Engineering Documents, 2805 McGraw Ave., Irvine CA 92714. Copies of EIA IS-132 may be inspected during normal business hours at the following locations: Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, NW, Dockets Branch (Room 239), Washington, DC, or the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, suite 700, Washington, DC. This requirement is applicable on May 31, 1995, for new and re-built cable systems, and on June 30, 1997, for all cable systems.

(2) The aural center frequency of the aural carrier must be $4.5 \text{ MHz} \pm 5 \text{ kHz}$ above the frequency of the visual carrier at the output of the modulating or processing equipment of a cable television system, and at the subscriber terminal.

(3) The visual signal level, across a terminating impedance which correctly matches the internal impedance of the cable system as viewed from the subscriber terminal, shall not be less than 1 millivolt across an internal impedance of 75 ohms (0 dBmV). Additionally, as measured at the end of a 30 meter (100 foot) cable drop that is connected to the subscriber tap, it shall not be less than 1.41 millivolts across an internal impedance of 75 ohms (+3 dBmV). (At other impedance values, the minimum visual signal level, as viewed from the subscriber terminal, shall be the square root of $0.0133 (Z)$ millivolts and, as measured at the end of a 30 meter (100 foot) cable drop that is connected to the subscriber tap, shall be 2 times the square root of $0.00662(Z)$ millivolts, where Z is the appropriate impedance value.)

(4) The visual signal level on each channel, as measured at the end of a 30 meter cable drop that is connected to the subscriber tap, shall not vary more than 8 decibels within any six-month interval, which must include four tests performed in six-hour increments during a 24 hour period in July or August and during a hour period in January or February, and shall be maintained within:

(i) 3 decibels (dB) of the visual signal level of any visual carrier within a 6 MHz nominal frequency separation;

(ii) 10 dB of the visual signal level on any other channel on a cable television system of up to 300 MHz of cable distribution system upper frequency limit, with a 1 dB increase for each additional 100 MHz of cable distribution system upper frequency limit (*e.g.*, 11 dB for a system at 301-400 MHz; 12 dB for a system at 401-500 MHz, *etc.*); and

(iii) A maximum level such that signal degradation due to overload in the subscriber's receiver or terminal does not occur.

(5) The rms voltage of the aural signal shall be maintained between 10 and 17 decibels below the associated visual signal level. This requirement must be met both at the subscriber terminal and at the output of the modulating and processing equipment (generally the headend). For subscriber terminals that use equipment which modulate and remodulate the signal (*e.g.*, baseband converters), the rms voltage of the aural signal shall be maintained between 6.5 and 17 decibels below the associated visual signal level at the subscriber terminal.

(6) The amplitude characteristic shall be within a range of ± 2 decibels from 0.75 MHz to 5.0 MHz above the lower boundary frequency of the cable television channel, referenced to the average of the highest and lowest amplitudes within these frequency boundaries.

(i) Prior to December 30, 1999, the amplitude characteristic may be measured after a subscriber tap and before a converter that is provided and maintained by the cable operator.

(ii) As of December 30, 1999, the amplitude characteristic shall be measured at the subscriber terminal.

(7) The ratio of RF visual signal level to system noise shall be as follows:

(i) From June 30, 1992, to June 30, 1993, shall not be less than 36 decibels.

(ii) From June 30, 1993 to June 30, 1995, shall not be less than 40 decibels.

(iii) As of June 30, 1995, shall not be less than 43 decibels.

- (iv) For class I cable television channels, the requirements of paragraphs (a)(7)(i), (a)(7)(ii) and (a)(7)(iii) of this section are applicable only to:
- (A) Each signal which is delivered by a cable television system to subscribers within the predicted Grade B contour for that signal;
 - (B) Each signal which is first picked up within its predicted Grade B contour;
 - (C) Each signal that is first received by the cable television system by direct video feed from a TV broadcast station, a low power TV station, or a TV translator station.
- (8) The ratio of visual signal level to the rms amplitude of any coherent disturbances such as intermodulation products, second and third order distortions or discrete-frequency interfering signals not operating on proper offset assignments shall be as follows:
- (i) The ratio of visual signal level to coherent disturbances shall not be less than 51 decibels for noncoherent channel cable television systems, when measured with modulated carriers and time averaged; and
 - (ii) The ratio of visual signal level to coherent disturbances which are frequency-coincident with the visual carrier shall not be less than 47 decibels for coherent channel cable systems, when measured with modulated carriers and time averaged.
- (9) The terminal isolation provided to each subscriber terminal:
- (i) Shall not be less than 18 decibels. In lieu of periodic testing, the cable operator may use specifications provided by the manufacturer for the terminal isolation equipment to meet this standard; and
 - (ii) Shall be sufficient to prevent reflections caused by open-circuited or short-circuited subscriber terminals from producing visible picture impairments at any other subscriber terminal.
- (10) The peak-to-peak variation in visual signal level caused by undesired low frequency disturbances (hum or repetitive transients) generated within the system, or by inadequate low frequency response, shall not exceed 3 percent of the visual signal level. Measurements made on a single channel using a single unmodulated carrier may be used to demonstrate compliance with this parameter at each test location.
- (11) As of June 30, 1995, the following requirements apply to the performance of the cable television system as measured at the output of the modulating or processing equipment (generally the headend) of the system:
- (i) The chrominance-luminance delay inequality (or chroma delay), which is the change in delay time of the chrominance component of the signal relative to the luminance component, shall be within 170 nanoseconds.
 - (ii) The differential gain for the color subcarrier of the television signal, which is measured as the difference in amplitude between the largest and smallest segments of the chrominance signal (divided by the largest and expressed in percent), shall not exceed $\pm 20\%$.
 - (iii) The differential phase for the color subcarrier of the television signal which is measured as the largest phase difference in degrees between each segment of the chrominance signal and reference segment (the segment at the blanking level of O IRE), shall not exceed ± 10 degrees.
- (12) As an exception to the general provision requiring measurements to be made at subscriber terminals, and without regard to the type of signals carried by the cable television system, signal leakage from a cable television system shall be measured in accordance with the procedures outlined in § 76.609(h) and shall be limited as follows:

Frequencies	Signal leakage	
	limit (micro-volt/	Distance in meters (m)
Less than and including 54 MHz, and over 216 MHz	15	30
Over 54 up to and including 216 MHz	20	3

(b) Cable television systems distributing signals by using methods such as nonconventional coaxial cable techniques, noncoaxial copper cable techniques, specialized coaxial cable and fiber optical cable hybridization techniques or specialized compression techniques or specialized receiving devices, and which, because of their basic design, cannot comply with one or more of the technical standards set forth in paragraph (a) of this section, may be permitted to operate: Provided, That an adequate showing is made pursuant to § 76.7 which establishes that the public interest is benefited. In such instances, the Commission may prescribe special technical requirements to ensure that subscribers to such systems are provided with an equivalent level of good quality service.

Note 1: Local franchising authorities of systems serving fewer than 1000 subscribers may adopt standards less stringent than those in § 76.605(a). Any such agreement shall be reduced to writing and be associated with the system's proof-of-performance records.

Note 2: For systems serving rural areas as defined in § 76.5, the system may negotiate with its local franchising authority for standards less stringent than those in §§ 76.605(a)(3), 76.605(a)(7), 76.605(a)(8), 76.605(a)(10) and 76.605(a)(11). Any such agreement shall be reduced to writing and be associated with the system's proof-of-performance records.

Note 3: The requirements of this section shall not apply to devices subject to the provisions of §§ 15.601 through 15.626.

Note 4: Should subscriber complaints arise from a system failing to meet § 76.605(a)(6) prior to December 30, 1999, the cable operator will be required to provide a converter that will allow the system to meet the standard immediately at the complaining subscriber's terminal. Further, should the problem be found to be system-wide, the Commission may order all converters on the system be changed to meet the standard.

Note 5: Should subscriber complaints arise from a system failing to meet § 76.605(a)(10), the cable operator will be required to remedy the complaint and perform test measurements on § 76.605(a)(10) containing the full number of channels as indicated in § 76.601(b)(2) at the complaining subscriber's terminal. Further, should the problem be found to be system-wide, the Commission may order that the full number of channels as indicated in § 76.601(b)(2) be tested at all required locations for future proof-of-performance tests.

Note 6: No State or franchising authority may prohibit, condition, or restrict a cable system's use of any type of subscriber equipment or any transmission technology.

[37 FR 3278, Feb. 12, 1972, as amended at 37 FR 13867, July 14, 1972; 40 FR 2690, Jan. 15, 1975; 40 FR 3296, Jan. 21, 1975; 41 FR 53028, Dec. 3, 1976; 42 FR 21782, Apr. 29, 1977; 47 FR 21503, May 18, 1982; 50 FR 52466, Dec. 24, 1985; 51 FR 1255, Jan. 10, 1986; 52 FR 22461, June 12, 1987; 57 FR 11002, Apr. 1, 1992; 57 FR 61010, Dec. 23, 1992; 58 FR 44952, Aug. 25, 1993; 59 FR 25342, May 16, 1994; 61 FR 18510, Apr. 26, 1996; 61 FR 18978, Apr. 30, 1996; 65 FR 53616, Sept. 5, 2000]

EXHIBIT C

GROSS ANNUAL REVENUES REPORTING FORM

**COMCAST CABLE COMMUNICATIONS MANAGEMENT, LLC
 TOWN OF PHILLIPSTON**

*****CONFIDENTIAL - Trade Secrets*****



System Name:

Email:

Phone:

Vendor ID:

Contract Name:

Statement Period:

Payment Amount:

Statement Number:

CUID:

System ID:

This statement represents your payment for the period listed above.

Revenue Category	Amount
Expanded Basic Video Service	
Limited Basic Video Service	
Digital Video Service	
Pay	
PPV / VOD	
Digital Video Equipment	
Video Installation / Activation	
Franchise Fees	
PEG Fees	
State Assessment	
Guide	
Other	
Late Fees	
Write-offs / Recoveries	
Ad Sales	
Home Shopping Commissions	
Total	
Franchise Fee %	
Franchise Fee	
MA License Fee	
Total	
Payment Less Deductions	

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the above is a true and correct statement for the accounting of the gross revenues received by this corporation for the period.

 XXXXXXXXX
 Sr. Analyst

EXHIBIT D

207 CMR 10.00

BILLING AND TERMINATION OF SERVICE

10.01: Billing Practices Notice

- (1) Every cable television operator shall give written notice of its billing practices to potential subscribers before 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 15th of each year with the Commission, the issuing authority, and the company'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 Commission, the issuing authority and the company'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 Commission, the issuing authority and all affected subscribers of the change and include 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) The cable television operator shall give notice of its services, rates and charges to potential subscribers before a subscription agreement is reached.
- (2) At least 30 days prior to implementing an increase in one of its rates or charges or a substantial change in the number or type of programming services, the operator shall notify, in writing, the Commission, the issuing authority and all affected subscribers of the change and 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.
- (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/or 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 Commission, the issuing authority and the company'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 Commission, the issuing authority and the company'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 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 or to obtain a description of the subscriber's 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 or charge 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;
 - (e) the amount of the bill for the current billing period, separate from any prior balance due;
 - (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 that provides 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 non-discriminatory 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 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 company at least 30 days after the bill due date.
- (3) The following provisions shall apply to the imposition of late charges on 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 a lawful percent 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 company 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 a prorated refund of any amounts paid in advance.

10.07: Billing Disputes

- (1) Every cable television operator shall establish procedures for prompt investigation of any billing dispute registered by a subscriber. The procedure 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 working days of receipt of the complaint.
- (2) The subscriber shall forfeit any rights under 207 CMR 10.07 if he or she fails to pay the undisputed balance within 30 days.
- (3) Any subscriber in disagreement with the results of the cable television operator's investigation shall 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 Commission may accept a petition filed under 207 CMR 10.07(4).
- (4) The subscriber or the cable television operator may petition the Commission to resolve disputed matters within 30 days of any final action. 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 Commission may proceed to resolve the dispute if all parties agree to submit the dispute to the Commission and be bound by the Commission's decision and the Commission obtains a statement signed by the parties indicating that agreement. In resolving the dispute, the Commission may receive either written or oral statements from the parties, and may conduct its own investigation. The Commission 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.

EXHIBIT E

**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) Effective July 1, 1993, a cable operator shall be 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 business hours.

(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 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 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 that is convenient for the customer.

(3) Communications between cable operators and cable subscribers--

(i) Notifications to subscribers--

(A) The cable operator shall provide written information on each of the following areas at the time of installation of service, at least annually to all subscribers, and at any time upon request:

(1) Products and services offered;

(2) Prices and options for programming services and conditions of subscription to programming and other services;

(3) Installation and service maintenance policies;

(4) Instructions on how to use the cable service;

(5) Channel positions programming carried on the system; and,

(6) Billing and complaint procedures, including the address and telephone number of the local franchise authority's cable office.

(B) Customers will be notified of any changes in rates, programming services or channel positions as soon as possible in writing. Notice must be given to subscribers a minimum of thirty (30) days in advance of such changes if the change is within the control of the cable operator. In addition, the cable operator shall notify subscribers thirty (30) days in advance of any significant changes in the other information required by paragraph (c)(3)(i)(A) of this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of Part 76, a cable 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 agency, State, or franchising authority on the transaction between the operator and the subscriber.

(ii) Billing--

(A) Bills will be clear, concise and understandable. Bills must be fully itemized, with itemizations including, but not limited to, basic and premium service charges and equipment charges. Bills will also clearly delineate all activity during the billing period, including optional charges, rebates and credits.

(B) In case of a billing dispute, the cable operator must respond to a written complaint from a subscriber within 30 days.

(iii) 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.

(iv) 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 F

CABLE DIVISION FORM 500

Form 500 Complaint Data - Paper Filing

City/Town:

Cable Company:

Filing Year:

Address:

Number of Subscribers:

Contact:

Phone:

E-Mail:

Average Resolution Time: <1> Less than 1 Day, <2> 1-3 Days, <3> 4-7 Days, <4> 8-14 Days, <5> 15-30 Days, <6> > 30 Days
 Manner of Resolution: A. Resolved to the satisfaction of both parties., B. Resolved, customer dissatisfied., C. Not Resolved.

	Total Complaints	Avg. Resolution Time (see code above)	Manner of Resolution (see code key above for the manner represented by the letters below) The number below each letter indicates the number of complaints resolved in that manner:		
			A.	B.	C.
Advertising/Marketing					
Appointment/Service call					
Billing					
Customer Service					
Defective Notice					
Equipment					
Installation					
Reception					
Service Interruption					
Unable to Contact					
Failure to Respond to Original Complaint					
Other:					