

**CABLE TELEVISION  
RENEWAL LICENSE**

**GRANTED TO**

**Comcast of Massachusetts II, Inc.**

**Granted By**

**By**

**THE SELECTBOARD  
OF THE  
TOWN OF WHATELY  
MASSACHUSETTS**

**Renewal Term  
December 12, 2016 – December 11, 2026  
(Including Restated Period of December 12, 2016 – July 27, 2017)**

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## **RENEWAL LICENSE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

WHEREAS, Comcast of Massachusetts II, Inc., (hereinafter "Licensee"), is the duly authorized holder of a renewal license to operate a cable television system in the Town of Whately, Massachusetts (hereinafter the "Town"), said license having a Restated Term of April 8, 2005 through July 27, 2007 and a Renewal Term of July 28, 2007 through July 27, 2017.

WHEREAS, Licensee filed a written request for a renewal of its license by letter dated September 22, 2014 in conformity with the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 ("Cable Act");

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

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

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

**ARTICLE 1**  
**DEFINITIONS**

**SECTION 1.1 – DEFINITIONS**

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

(a) Access - The right or ability of any Whately resident and/or any Persons affiliated with a Whately institution to use designated Public, Education and Government (“PEG”) access facilities and equipment and/or Access Channels of the Cable Television System, subject to the conditions and procedures established for such use by the Town and/or its designee.

(b) Access Channel: A video channel on the Cable System which the Licensee owns and shall make available for use by the Town, its designee(s) and Access users, without charge, for the purpose of transmitting non-commercial programming by members of the public, Town departments and agencies, public schools, and educational institutions and similar organizations.

(c) Access Provider – shall mean the entity designated by the Issuing Authority for the purpose of operating and managing the use of Public, Educational and Governmental Access funding, equipment and channels on the cable television system in accordance with this Renewal License and 47 U.S.C. 531.

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

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

(f) 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.

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

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

(i) Cable Television System or Cable System – shall mean the facility owned, constructed, installed, operated and maintained by Licensee, 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 the Town, but such term does not include (a) a facility that serves only to retransmit the television signals of one or more television broadcast stations; (b) a facility that serves subscribers without using any public right-of-way; (c) a facility of a common carrier which is subject, in whole or in part, to the provisions of Title II of the Cable Act, except that such facility shall be considered a cable system (other than for purposes of section 621(c) of the Cable Act) to the extent such facility is used in the transmission of video programming directly to subscribers unless the extent of such use is solely to provide interactive on-demand services; (d) an open video system that complies with section 653 of this title, or (e) any facilities of any electric utility used solely for operating its electric utility systems.

(j) Complaint – Any written or verbal contact with the Licensee in connection with a subscription in which a Person expresses dissatisfaction with an act, omission, product or service that is (1) within the Licensee's control, and (2) requires a corrective measure on the part of the Licensee.

(k) Drop – shall mean the coaxial cable or fiber that connects a home or building to the feeder cable of the Subscriber Network.

(l) Effective Date – shall mean December 12, 2016.

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

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

(o) Gross Annual Revenues – The revenues received by the Licensee and/or its Affiliates derived from the operation of the Cable System to provide Cable Service in the Town, accrued in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) in the United States, and shall include, without limitation: the revenues derived from the distribution of any Cable Service over the Cable System; Basic Service monthly fees and all other Cable Service fees; any and all Cable Service fees and/or charges received from Subscribers; installation, reconnection, downgrade, upgrade and any similar charges; interest earned on all Subscriber fees and/or charges collected; all digital Cable Service revenues; fees paid on all Subscriber fees (“Fee-on Fee”); all Commercial Subscriber Cable Service revenues (including bulk account revenues); Pay Cable, Premium Services and Pay-Per-View revenues; converter, remote control and other Cable Service-related equipment rentals and/or leases or sales; fees paid for channels designated for commercial use (leased access payments); home shopping revenues; and advertising revenues. Revenues that are not directly attributable to specific Subscribers, including, but not limited to, advertising revenue, home shopping revenues and leased access payments, shall be allocated to the Cable System on a per Subscriber or other equitable basis measured in a consistent manner. Gross Annual Revenues shall also include the gross revenue of any other Person which is derived directly from or in connection with the operation of the Cable System to the extent that said revenue is derived through a means which has the effect of avoiding payment of Franchise Fees to the Town that would otherwise be paid herein. Gross Annual Revenues shall not include actual bad debt that is written off, consistent with GAAP; provided, however, that all or any part of any such actual bad debt that is written off, but subsequently collected, shall be included in Gross Annual Revenues in the period so collected.

(p) Issuing Authority – shall mean the Selectboard of the Town of Whately, Massachusetts, or the lawful designee thereof.

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

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



(s) Normal Business Hours – shall mean those hours during which most similar businesses in Whately are open to serve customers. In all cases, Normal Business Hours must include some evening hours and at least one night per week and/or some weekend hours.

(t) Outlet – shall mean an interior receptacle that connects a Subscriber's or User's television set or Subscriber-owned equipment to the Cable System.

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

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

(w) PEG: The acronym for “public, educational and governmental” Access, used in conjunction with Access Channels, support and facilities.

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

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

(z) 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 or Town.

(aa) Prime Rate – The prime rate of interest as reported by the Federal Reserve or its successor, however, if a prime rate is reported by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston it shall be the “Prime Rate” for purposes of this Renewal License.

(ab) Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) Access Channel – A video channel which the Licensee shall make available to the Town and designees of the Town including Access Users, without charge, for the purpose of transmitting non-commercial programming by members of the public, Town departments and agencies, public schools, educational, institutional and similar organizations.

(ac) Public Buildings – shall mean those buildings owned or leased by the Town or public school(s) for municipal government or educational purposes, and shall not include buildings owned

by Town or public school(s) but leased to third parties or buildings such as storage facilities at which government employees are not regularly stationed.

(ad) 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 Whately, 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 Whately 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.

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

(af) Standard Installation – The installation which can be completed using a Drop of up to two hundred feet (200’) aerial or two hundred feet (200’) underground from the existing Trunk and Distribution System.

(ag) State – The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

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

(aj) Town – shall mean the Town of Whately, Massachusetts.

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

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

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **GRANT OF RENEWAL LICENSE**

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

(a) Pursuant to the authority of M.G.L. c. 166A, and the Cable Act the Issuing Authority hereby grants a non-exclusive Renewal License to Comcast of Massachusetts II, Inc., a Delaware Corporation registered to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, authorizing and permitting Licensee to construct, operate and maintain a Cable Television System in the Public Way within the municipal limits of the Town of Whately.

(b) This Renewal License is granted under and in compliance with the Cable Act and M.G.L. c.166A, and in compliance with all rules and regulations of the FCC and the Cable Division in force and effect during the period for which this Renewal License is granted.

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

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

This non-exclusive Renewal License shall be for a period of ten (10) years, commencing on December 12, 2016 through midnight December 11, 2026. This renewal period includes the restated term of December 12, 2016 through July 27, 2017.

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

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

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

#### **SECTION 2.4 - RESERVATION OF AUTHORITY**

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

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

(a) This Renewal License shall not affect the right of the Issuing Authority to grant to any other Person a license or right to occupy or use the Public Ways or streets, or portions thereof, for the construction, upgrade, installation, operation or maintenance of a Cable Television System within the Town; or the right of the Issuing Authority to permit the use of the Public Ways and places of the Town for any purpose(s) whatsoever. The Licensee hereby acknowledges the Issuing Authority's right to make such grants and permit such uses.

(b) The grant of any additional cable television license(s) shall not be on terms more favorable or less burdensome than those contained in this Renewal License. The grant of any additional cable television license(s) shall be at the sole discretion of the Issuing Authority.

(i) In the event that the Licensee believes that any additional cable television license(s) have been granted on terms and conditions more favorable or less burdensome than those contained in this Renewal License, the Licensee may request, in writing, that the Issuing Authority convene a public hearing on that issue. Along with said written request, the Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority with written reasons for its belief. At the public hearing, the Issuing Authority shall afford the Licensee an opportunity to demonstrate that any such additional cable television license(s) are on terms more favorable or less burdensome than those contained in this Renewal License. The Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority with such financial or other relevant information as is requested.

(ii) Should the Licensee demonstrate that any such additional cable television license(s) have been granted on terms and conditions more favorable or less burdensome than those

contained in this Renewal License, the Issuing Authority shall consider and negotiate, in good faith, equitable amendments to this Renewal License.

(c) The issuance of additional license(s) shall be subject to applicable federal law(s), and M.G.L. Chapter 166A and applicable regulations promulgated thereunder.

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

(e) In the event that the Licensee believes that in the future another cable licensee which has been granted a cable television license in the Town, has been provided relief by the Issuing Authority from a material obligation(s) of its license, which may include amendments to the license, that causes said other cable television license to be more favorable or less burdensome than this Renewal License, the Licensee may request, in writing, that the Issuing Authority convene a public hearing on that issue. Along with said written request, the Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority with written reasons for its belief. At the public hearing, the Issuing Authority shall afford the Licensee an opportunity to demonstrate that any such additional cable television license(s) are on terms more favorable or less burdensome than those contained in this Renewal License. The Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority with such financial or other relevant information as is requested. Should the Licensee demonstrate that any such additional cable television license(s) have been granted on terms and conditions more favorable or less burdensome than those contained in this Renewal License, the Issuing Authority shall consider and negotiate, in good faith, equitable amendments to this Renewal License.

## **SECTION 2.6 – POLICE AND REGULATORY POWERS**

By executing this Renewal License, the Licensee acknowledges that its rights are subject to the powers of the Town and its right to adopt and enforce generally applicable by-laws in the lawful exercise of its police powers to the extent permitted by applicable law, with respect to the safety and welfare of the public. The Licensee shall comply with all applicable federal and State laws and regulation, and Town by-laws and lawful regulations, provided such Town bylaws and regulations are not specific to this License, the Licensee and/or Cable System. Any conflict between the terms of this Renewal License and any present or future lawful exercise of the Town's

police and regulatory powers shall be resolved in a court of competent jurisdiction. Nothing in this Section 2.6 shall be deemed to prohibit the right of the Licensee to challenge the legality of a Town by-law or regulation.

#### **SECTION 2.7 – REMOVAL OR ABANDONMENT**

Upon termination of this Renewal License by passage of time or otherwise, unless (1) the Licensee has its license renewed for another term or (2) the ownership of the Cable Television System is transferred to another Person with written approval by the Issuing Authority in accordance with applicable law and pursuant to Section 2.8 below or (3) unless otherwise operating under the terms of this Renewal License as allowed by applicable law, the Licensee shall remove all of its supporting structures, poles, transmission and distribution systems, and other appurtenances from the Public Ways and shall restore the areas to their original condition as is reasonably possible and as soon as reasonably possible. If such removal is not complete within six (6) months of such termination, the Issuing Authority may deem any property not removed as having been abandoned. Upon written request of the Licensee, the Issuing Authority may waive this requirement for good cause shown.

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

(a) Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 166A, Section 7, as may be amended from time to time, neither this Renewal License, nor control thereof, shall be transferred, assigned or disposed of in any manner, voluntarily or involuntarily, directly or indirectly, or by transfer of control of any Person, company and/or other entity holding such Renewal License to any other Person, company and/or other entity, without the prior written consent of the Issuing Authority, which consent shall not be arbitrarily or unreasonably withheld. Such consent shall be given only after a public hearing upon a written application therefore on forms as may be prescribed by the FCC and/or the Cable Division. An application for consent to a transfer or assignment, if required, shall be signed by the Licensee and by the proposed transferee or assignee or by their representatives, evidence of whose authority shall be submitted with the application. A transfer or assignment of a license or control thereof between commonly controlled entities, between affiliated companies, or between parent and subsidiary corporations, shall not constitute a transfer or assignment of a license or control thereof under this Renewal License, unless otherwise provided by applicable federal or State law. An “affiliated

company” is any Person or entity who owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, such Person or entity.

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

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

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

(e) The consent of the Issuing Authority shall be given only after a public hearing to consider the written application for transfer. Unless otherwise allowed by applicable law(s), the Issuing Authority shall make a decision on said written application within one hundred and twenty (120) days of receipt of said application. After 120 days, the application shall be deemed approved, unless said 120 day period is extended in writing by mutual agreement of the parties pursuant to applicable law.

(f) Any proposed controlling or owning Person or transferee approved by the Issuing Authority shall be subject to all of the terms and conditions contained in the Renewal License.

## **SECTION 2.9 – EFFECT OF UNAUTHORIZED TRANSFER ACTION**

(a) Any transfer of the Cable System without the Licensee and the transferee complying with Section 2.8 above shall be null and void, and shall be deemed a material breach of this Renewal License.

(b) If the Issuing Authority denies its consent to any such action and a transfer has nevertheless been effected, the Issuing Authority may revoke and terminate this Renewal License, unless such transfer is otherwise allowable by applicable law.

(c) The grant or waiver of any one or more of such consents shall not render unnecessary any subsequent consent or consents, nor shall the grant of any such consent constitute a waiver of any other rights of the Town.



### **ARTICLE 3**

#### **SYSTEM SPECIFICATIONS AND CONSTRUCTION**

##### **SECTION 3.1 – SUBSCRIBER NETWORK**

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

(b) The Licensee shall install and maintain, throughout the term of the Renewal License, standby power at its Headend. Such standby power shall provide continuous capability, contingent upon the availability of fuel necessary to operate the standby generators and shall become automatically activated upon the failure of the Licensee's normal power supply.

(c) The Licensee shall transmit all of its Signals to Whately Subscribers in stereo, provided that such Signals are furnished to the Licensee in stereo.

##### **SECTION 3.2 - AREA TO BE SERVED**

(a) Licensee shall continue to make Cable Service available to every residential dwelling unit within the Town that currently has Cable Service available to it from the Licensee. The Licensee shall make Cable Service available to every residential dwelling unit within the Town where the minimum density is (i) fifteen (15) dwelling units per aerial mile or (ii) thirty-five (35) dwelling units per underground mile both as measured from termination of the Licensee's Trunk and Distribution System. (All being pro-rated for distances less than or greater than a mile.) The Licensee shall promptly apply for all necessary permits. Said Cable Service shall be made available and fully activated to requesting dwelling units no later than sixty (60) days after all necessary permits are obtained, subject to Force Majeure (including the performance of make ready).

(b) The Cable System shall be further extended to all areas in the Town that do not meet the requirements of Section 3.2(a) or (b) above upon the request of dwelling unit owners in such areas and based upon the following cost calculation: The cost of wiring such areas shall be calculated by taking the capital cost of extending such Service divided by the number of dwelling units in such area minus the costs of extending Service to dwelling units in an area along the Public Ways that meets the required number of dwelling units per aerial or underground mile of cable plant and/or fractional proportion thereof density requirement specified in subsection (a) above. The resulting

cost shall equal the per dwelling unit contribution relating to line extension of Cable Service in that particular area of the Town, or

$$\frac{C}{LE} - \frac{CA}{P} = SC$$

- \* C equals the cost of construction of new plant from existing Cable System plant;
- \* LE equals the number of dwelling units requesting Service in the line extension area and who subsequently pay a contribution in aid;
- \* CA equals the average cost of construction per mile in the primary service area;
- \* P equals the required number of dwelling units per mile as measured from termination of the Licensee's Trunk and Distribution System; and
- \* SC equals the per dwelling unit contribution in aid of construction in the line extension area.

(c) The Issuing Authority shall make its best efforts to provide the Licensee with written notice of the issuance of building permits for planned housing developments in the Town requiring the undergrounding of Cable System plant.

### **SECTION 3.3 - LINE EXTENSION PROCEDURES**

Any dwelling unit owner located in an area of the Town without Cable Service may request such Service from the Licensee. In areas meeting the requirements of Section 4.2 (a) and (b) above, the Licensee shall extend Service to the area promptly, but in no case later than sixty (60) days after all necessary permits are obtained, subject to Force Majeure, weather, and the performance of make ready. The Licensee shall apply to the Selectboard for permits, if necessary, promptly. In those areas with less than the required number of dwelling units per mile as provided in Sections 3.2(a) and 3.2(b) above, the Licensee shall, within thirty (30) days following a request for Service, conduct a survey to determine the number of homes in the immediate area and shall inform the requesting dwelling unit owner in writing of the contribution in aid of construction (see Section 3.2 (c) above) that will be charged. The Licensee shall apply for pole attachment agreements within sixty (60) days of receiving the contribution in aid of construction from all participating dwelling units. Cable Television Service(s) shall be made available and fully activated to all requesting dwelling units who made a contribution in aid of construction within sixty (60) days of receipt of pole attachment agreements by the Licensee, subject to Force Majeure (including the performance of make ready).