I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL
   Council Member Thorsen
   Council Member Petersen
   Council Member Walczak
   Council Member Sonnek
   Mayor Furlong

III. ADOPT AGENDA

IV. TOPIC(S)
   A. Cable Franchise discussion

V. OTHER BUSINESS

VI. ADJOURNMENT
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Agenda placement: City Business

Subject: Membership with the Ramsey Washington Suburban Cable Commission (RWSCC)

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

Background/Facts:

City Council has asked for a discussion about our continued membership with the Ramsey Washington Suburban Cable Commission (RWSCC), of which we've been a member of since the 1980's. City staff has prepared a variety of materials surrounding the matter.

From a high level, the franchise agreement we have with Comcast affords them the ability to operate in our rights of way to distribute cable television. The current franchise agreement between Comcast and RWSCC is 20 years old and was meant to expire four years ago. It currently has been extended until February 2020. There is a regulated franchise fee, of 5% of revenue that we charge to allow Comcast this opportunity.

In addition, Comcast distributes a PEG (Public, Education, Government) Grants to the Cable Commission, on our behalf, that allows the Cable Commission to provide and develop content for our residents that have cable. The agreement requires Comcast subscribers in the RWSCC communities to pay a fee for PEG programming. RWSCC subscribers pay an additional $5.33 a month on their cable bill to sustain the PEG operations of the RWSCC. PEG dollars are to be used for equipment only. They paid for most of our City Council Chambers upgrade. This also pays for the facility/equipment on Bellaire Ave., as well as their mobile equipment that is used for our annual Parade.

Comcast has been in renewal negotiations with RWSCC for three years with no immediate end in sight in the near future. As we all know, the environment around communication with our residents and businesses is changing. City Council should consider the value of continued participation in the cable commission as it is currently configured.

RWSCC

The mission of the RWSCC is monitor operation of cable system, franchise agreement management, operating grant for PEG Services and insuring reasonable cable rates and service. North Saint Paul consists of about 8.93% of the total customer base within the Cable Commission. The number of customers in North Saint Paul is 1788+/-range, and declining. For 2018, the revenue produced from the franchise fee by North Saint Paul’s customers was $115,400. This amount is directly distributed to the Cable Commission, per our Joint Powers Agreement. After the Cable Commission sets a budget, they take the necessary operating costs from the revenue they receive from Comcast for North Saint Paul. In 2018, this amount was approximately $29,753. The rest, $85,647, was distributed back to the City, where we absorb it into the general fund.
With regard to the PEG fee, the current amount collected is $5.33/month, or $63.96 per year per customer. For North Saint Paul in 2018, this amount was $5.02/month, $60.24 per year per customer, with a total amount collected of approximately $118,311 in North Saint Paul. In 2018, the total amount collected by the Cable Commission was approximately $1,307,603.

Through the franchise agreement, the City does receive access to FREE use of the Institutional-Network (I-Net) however, we do not use or need this access as we utilize our own fiber connections to accesses the internet and the City of Roseville for our IT services. Comcast has indicated in discussions with RWSCC and other Cable Commissions that the free access/use of the I-Net is something Comcast will no longer be offering.

**Litigation and Legal Costs**
The Cable Commission has had legal costs associated with it. One is a legal contest with the City of Maplewood after they withdrew from the Commission. After they left, the RWSCC withheld their annual franchise fee. The City of Maplewood sued to recover this lost payment and the court agreed. Additionally, the City of Maplewood also felt that because a significant portion of the total customer base for the cable commission was from the City of Maplewood, the City had a legal right to their portion of the fund balance. RWSCC contends the Joint Powers Agreement specifically describes this scenario and the funds are forfeited if the Member chooses to leave. All the same, the Cable Commission had spent around $65,000 defending this lawsuit against the City of Maplewood in 2017-18.

Secondly, the Cable Commission has also hired legal representation to negotiate with Comcast for 2017-18. The franchise agreement has been extended several times in the past years and is currently extended to February 2020. The legal costs associated with this negotiation continues to grow.

In Shoreview, a concern the City had was would leaving the franchise cut off their residents from the school programs. Comcast has agreed that the school programs were not proprietary to the Cable Commission and they do patch through the school channel to Shoreview residents and will do the same for North Saint Paul should we decide to leave the commission.

**Conclusion**
There is a lot to consider with regards to our future in the Cable Commission. Comcast conducted a survey in 2017 of the RWSCC customer base. We have a copy of that document (200 pages) if anyone wants to read it further. Generally, the survey revealed the cable access channels are rarely watched and even fewer watch these channels on a regular basis.

The ability to produce programming has become more readily available to the average person. They can film something on their phone and upload it to YouTube faster than it would take them to drive to the RWSCC production studio. Admittedly, that example may not be fair to the sophistication of producing a television show, but the sentiment is right in that technology has afforded everyone the ability to communicate with the world via the internet in high definition video. The question then becomes, are we getting the best bang for our buck being a part of the Cable Commission? Should we be asking the Cable Commission to provide different services? Do they have that drive and ability? What are other cable commissions doing that is different?

The one clear answer is that they cannot continue to provide the status quo service. It's benefiting very few in North Saint Paul at a high cost. Cable appears to be an outdated service with a dwindling revenue stream for us. There are more and more options for content delivery through the internet. It is very likely
that in coming years, the number of North Saint Paul residents with cable television will continue to decline.

Should the City of North Saint Paul decide to withdraw from the Commission, we must file a written notice with the commission secretary by October 15th giving notice of withdrawal effective December 31, 2019; and our membership shall continue until the effective date of withdrawal. This must be done in order to prevent financial obligation in the upcoming year.

If the decision is to leave the commission staff is confident in the ability to provide content through multiple different media platforms with a vendor to be determined. Staff also feels this would be a cost savings to our residents and a revenue enhancement to the city.

Staff has met with Comcast regarding direct negotiation of a 10 year Cable Franchise Agreement. The proposed agreement with Comcast and the City of North Saint Paul would provide for a 5% Franchise Fee and a 2% PEG Fee.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended the City Council adopt a resolution of the City of North St. Paul’s intent to withdraw from the RWSCC JPA; authorize staff to provide written notice to the Secretary of the RWSCC Commission by October 15, 2019, with an effective date of withdrawal of December 31, 2019; and adopt an ordinance authorizing the City of North St. Paul to enter into an individual franchise agreement with Comcast Cable.

**Attachments:**
Resolution authorizing withdrawal from RWSCC
Draft Ordinance of Franchise Agreement with Comcast Cable

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ SD by mm

Scott Duddeck
City Manager
RESOLUTION NO. ________

CITY OF NORTH SAINT PAUL
RAMSEY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

RESOLUTION APPROVING WITHDRAWAL FROM THE
RAMSEY/WASHINGTON COUNTY SUBURBAN CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION II JOINT AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR THE
ADMINISTRATION OF CABLE COMMUNICATIONS FRANCHISES

WHEREAS, the City of North Saint Paul [hereinafter: City] entered into the Ramsey/Washington County Suburban Cable Communications Commission II Joint and Cooperative Agreement for the Administration of Cable Communications Franchises [hereinafter: Joint and Cooperative Agreement];

WHEREAS, the City wishes to withdraw from the Joint and Cooperative Agreement in order to pursue franchise negotiations in the best interests of the City;

WHEREAS, the City is aware that Section 2 of the Joint and Cooperative Agreement states the following:

In order to prevent obligation for its financial contribution to the Commission for the ensuing year, a Member shall withdraw from the Commission by filing a written notice with the secretary by October 15 of any year giving notice of withdrawal effective at the end of that calendar year; and membership shall continue until the effective date of withdrawal.

WHEREAS, the City wishes to provide written notice to the secretary of the Commission by October 15, 2019, with an effective date of withdrawal of December 31, 2019, in order to prevent an obligation for financial contribution to the Commission for the year of 2020;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of North Saint Paul, Minnesota:

1. The City Council finds that withdrawing from the Joint and Cooperative Agreement is in the best interests of the City;

2. The City Manager is authorized and directed to provide the City’s notice of withdrawal from the Joint and Cooperative Agreement to the secretary of the Commission by October 15, 2019, with an effective date of withdrawal of December 31, 2019.
PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of North Saint Paul this ______ day of ______________, 20__.  

______________________________  
Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor  

ATTEST:  

______________________________  
Scott A. Duddeck, City Manager
CITY OF NORTH ST PAUL, MINNESOTA

ORDINANCE GRANTING A CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE

TO

COMCAST OF MINNESOTA, INC.
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ORDINANCE NO. ________________

AN ORDINANCE RENEWING THE GRANT OF A FRANCHISE TO COMCAST OF MINNESOTA, INC. TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A CABLE SYSTEM IN THE CITY OF NORTH ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA; SETTING FORTH CONDITIONS ACCOMPANYING THE GRANT OF FRANCHISE; PROVIDING FOR CITY REGULATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE CABLE SYSTEM; TERMINATING PRIOR FRANCHISE

RECITALS

The City of North St. Paul, Minnesota (“City”), pursuant to applicable federal and state law, is authorized to grant one (1) or more nonexclusive cable television franchises to construct, operate, maintain and reconstruct cable television systems within the City limits.

Comcast of Minnesota, Inc., a Delaware corporation (“Grantee”) has operated a Cable System in the City, under a cable television franchise granted pursuant to a Cable Television Franchise Ordinance passed on November 29, 1999.

Negotiations between Grantee and the City have been completed and the franchise renewal process followed in accordance with the guidelines established by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 238 and the Cable Act (47 U.S.C. §546).

The City reviewed the legal, technical and financial qualifications of Grantee and has determined that it is in the best interest of the City and its residents to renew the cable television franchise with Grantee.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF NORTH ST. PAUL DOES ORDAIN that a franchise is hereby granted to Comcast of Minnesota, Inc., to operate and maintain a Cable System in the City upon the following terms and conditions:

SECTION 1 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Franchise, the following, terms, phrases, words, derivations and their derivations shall have the meanings given herein. When not inconsistent with the context, 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. In the event the meaning of any word or phrase not defined herein is uncertain, the definitions contained in applicable local, state or federal law shall apply.

“Advertising Revenues” shall mean revenues derived from sales of advertising that are made available to Grantee’s Cable System subscribers within the City and shall be allocated on a pro rata basis using total Cable Service subscribers reached by the advertising. Additionally, Grantee agrees that Gross Revenues subject to franchise fees shall include all commissions, representative fees, Affiliated Entity fees, or rebates paid to National Cable Communications and Comcast Spotlight or their successors associated with sales of advertising on the Cable System.
within the City allocated according to this paragraph using total Cable Service subscribers reached by the advertising.

“Affiliate” shall mean any Person controlling, controlled by or under common control of Grantee.

“Applicable Laws” means any law, statute, charter, ordinance, rule, regulation, code, license, certificate, franchise, permit, writ, ruling, award, executive order, directive, requirement, injunction (whether temporary, preliminary or permanent), judgment, decree or other order issued, executed, entered or deemed applicable by any governmental authority of competent jurisdiction.

“Basic Cable Service” shall be defined as set forth in applicable law, currently 47 USC § 522(3), as any means any service tier which includes the lawful retransmission of local television broadcast.

“Cable Act” means the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, 47 U.S.C. §§ 521 et seq., as amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, as further amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as further amended from time to time.

“Cable Service” shall be defined as set forth in applicable law, currently 47 USC § 522(6), as (a) the one-way transmission to Subscribers of (i) Video Programming or (ii) Other Programming Service, and b) Subscriber interaction, if any, which is required for the selection or use of such video programming or other programming service. For the purposes of this definition, “video programming” is programming provided by, or generally considered comparable to programming provided by a television broadcast station; and, “other programming service” is information that a cable operator makes available to all Subscribers generally.

“Cable System” or “System” shall have the meaning specified for “Cable System” in the Cable Act. Unless otherwise specified, it shall in this document refer to the Cable System constructed and operated in the City under this Franchise.

“Channel” shall be defined as set forth in applicable law, currently 47 USC § 522(4), as a portion of the electromagnetic frequency spectrum which is used in a Cable System and which is capable of delivering a television channel as defined by the FCC by regulation.

“City” shall mean the City of North St. Paul, a municipal corporation in the State of Minnesota.

“City Code” means the Municipal Code of the City of North St. Paul, Minnesota, as may be amended from time to time.

“Connection” means the attachment of the Drop to the television set of the Subscriber.
“Converter” means an electronic device, including Digital Transport Adapters, which converts signals to a frequency not susceptible to interference within the television receiver of a Subscriber, and by an appropriate Channel selector also permits a Subscriber to view all signals included in the Basic Cable Service tier delivered at designated converter dial locations.

“Council” shall mean the governing body of the City.

“Day” unless otherwise specified shall mean a calendar day.

“Demarcation Point” is the point agreed upon by the Grantee and the City upon which one side is the responsibility of the Grantee, and the other side is the responsibility of the City.

“Drop” shall mean the cable that connects the Subscriber terminal to the nearest feeder cable of the cable.

“Effective Date” shall mean [X].

“FCC” means the Federal Communications Commission, or a designated representative.

“Franchise” shall mean the right granted by this Franchise Ordinance and conditioned as set forth herein.

“Franchise Area” means the entire geographic area within the City as it is now constituted or may in the future be constituted.

“Franchise Fee” shall mean the fee assessed by the City to Grantee, determined in amount as a percentage of Grantee’s Gross Revenues and limited to the maximum percentage allowed for such assessment by federal law. The term Franchise Fee does not include the exceptions noted in 47 U.S.C. §542(g)(2)(A-E).

“GAAP” means generally accepted accounting principles as promulgated and defined by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”), Emerging Issues Task Force (“EITF”) and/or the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”).

“Gross Revenues” means, and shall be construed broadly to include, all revenues derived directly or indirectly by Grantee and/or an Affiliated Entity that is the cable operator of the Cable System, from the operation of Grantee’s Cable System to provide Cable Services within the City. Gross Revenues shall include revenue received by any Affiliate to prevent evasion or avoidance of the obligation under this Franchise to pay Franchise and PEG Fees. Revenues of both Grantee and an Affiliate that represent a transfer of funds between the Grantee and the Affiliate and that would otherwise constitute Gross Revenues shall be included for purposes of determining “Gross Revenues.” Except as provided herein, Gross Revenues shall not be net of: (1) any operating expense or other expenditure; (2) any prior actual or claimed overpayment of Franchise or PEG Fees, or (3) any accrual, including, without limitation, for commissions. Gross revenues include, by way of illustration and not limitation:
• monthly fees for Cable Services, regardless of whether such Cable Services are provided to residential or commercial customers, including revenues derived from the provision of all Cable Services (including but not limited to pay or premium Cable Services, digital Cable Services, pay-per-view, pay-per-event, and video-on-demand Cable Services);
• fees paid to Grantee for channels designated for commercial/leased access use and shall be allocated on a pro rata basis using total Cable Service subscribers within the City;
• converter, remote control, and other Cable Service equipment rentals, leases, or sales;
• Advertising Revenues as defined herein;
• late fees, convenience fees, and administrative fees, which shall be allocated on a pro rata basis using Cable Services revenue as a percentage of total subscriber revenues within the City;
• revenues from program guides;
• Franchise Fees;
• FCC Regulatory Fees;
• Except as provided in subsection (B) below, any fee, tax, including without limitation, the City’s utility tax, or other charge assessed against Grantee by municipality, which Grantee chooses to pass through and collect from its Subscribers; and
• commissions from home shopping channels and other Cable Service revenue sharing arrangements which shall be allocated on a pro rata basis using total Cable Service subscribers within the City.

(a) “Gross Revenues” shall not include:

• actual bad debt write-offs, except any portion which is subsequently collected which shall be allocated on a pro rata basis using Cable Services revenue as a percentage of total subscriber revenues within the City;
• Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) Fees; and
• unaffiliated third party advertising sales agency fees which are reflected as a deduction from revenues.

Grantee shall allocate fees and revenues generated from bundled packages and services to cable revenues pro rata based on current published rate card for the packaged services delivered on a stand-alone basis as follows:

i. To the extent revenues are received by Grantee for the provision of a discounted bundle of services which includes Cable Services and non-Cable Services, Grantee shall calculate revenues to be included in Gross Revenues using a GAAP methodology that allocates revenue, on a pro rata basis when comparing the bundled service price and its components to the sum of the published rate card, except as required by specific federal, state or local law (for example, it is expressly understood that equipment may be subject to inclusion in the bundled price at full rate card value). The City reserves its right to review and to challenge Grantee’s calculations.

ii. Grantee reserves the right to change the allocation methodologies set forth in this section in order to meet the standards required by governing accounting principles as
promulgated and defined by the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB"), Emerging Issues Task Force ("EITF") and/or the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). Grantee will explain and document the required changes to the City upon request or as part of any audit or review of franchise fee payments, and any such changes shall be subject to the next subsection below.

iii. Resolution of any disputes over the classification of revenue should first be attempted by agreement of the Parties, but should no resolution be reached, the Parties agree that reference shall be made to generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") as promulgated and defined by the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB"), Emerging Issues Task Force ("EITF") and/or the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). Notwithstanding the forgoing, the City reserves its right to challenge Grantee’s calculation of Gross Revenues, including the interpretation of GAAP as promulgated and defined by the FASB, EITF and/or the SEC.

“Interactive Services” are those services provided to Subscribers whereby the Subscriber either (a) both receives information consisting of either television or other signal and transmits signals generated by the Subscriber or equipment under his/her control for the purpose of selecting what information shall be transmitted to the Subscriber or for any other purpose or (b) transmits signals to any other location for any purpose.

“Minnesota Cable Communications Act” means the provisions of Minnesota law governing the requirements for a cable television franchise as set forth in Minn. Stat. Ch. 238, as may be amended.

“Normal Business Hours” means those hours during which most similar businesses in City are open to serve customers. In all cases, “Normal Business Hours” must include some evening hours, at least one (1) night per week and/or some weekend hours.

“Normal Operating Conditions” means those Service conditions which are within the control of Grantee. Those conditions which are not within the control of Grantee 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 Grantee 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.

“Pay Service” means programming (such as certain on-demand movie channels or pay-per-view programs) offered individually to Subscribers on a per-channel, per-program or per-event basis.

“PEG” means public, educational and governmental.

“PEG Access Channels” means any channels or portions of channels made available for use by the City for public, educational or governmental programming.
“Person” means any natural person and all domestic and foreign corporations, closely-held corporations, associations, syndicates, joint stock corporations, partnerships of every kind, clubs, businesses, common law trusts, societies and/or any other legal entity.

“Street” shall mean the surface of and the space above and below any public Street, road, highway, freeway, lane, path, trail, public way, alley, court, sidewalk, boulevard, parkway, drive or any easement or right-of-way now or hereafter held by City which shall, within its proper use and meaning in the sole opinion of City, entitle Grantee to the use thereof for the purpose of installing or transmitting over poles, wires, cables, conductors, ducts, conduits, vaults, man-holes, amplifiers, appliances, attachments and other property as may be ordinarily necessary and pertinent to a Cable System.

“Subscriber” means a Person who lawfully receives Cable Service.

“Wireline MVPD” means a multichannel video programming distributor that utilizes the Streets to install cable or fiber and is engaged in the business of making available for purchase, by Subscribers, multiple Channels of video programming in the City.

SECTION 2 FRANCHISE

2.1 Grant of Franchise. The City hereby authorizes Grantee to occupy or use the City’s Streets subject to: 1) the provisions of this non-exclusive Franchise to provide Cable Service within the City; and 2) all applicable provisions of the City Code. Nothing in this Franchise shall be construed to prohibit Grantee from: (1) providing services other than Cable Services to the extent not prohibited by Applicable Law; or (2) challenging any exercise of the City’s legislative or regulatory authority in an appropriate forum. The City hereby reserves all of its rights to regulate such other services to the extent not prohibited by Applicable Law and no provision herein shall be construed to limit or give up any right to regulate.

2.2 Reservation of Authority. The Grantee specifically agrees to comply with the lawful provisions of the City Code and applicable regulations of the City. Subject to the police power exception below, in the event of a conflict between A) the lawful provisions of the City Code or applicable regulations of the City and B) this Franchise, the express provisions of this Franchise shall govern. Subject to express federal and state preemption, the material terms and conditions contained in this Franchise may not be unilaterally altered by the City through subsequent amendments to the City Code, ordinances or any regulation of City, except in the lawful exercise of City’s police power. Grantee acknowledges that the City may modify its regulatory policies by lawful exercise of the City’s police powers throughout the term of this Franchise. Grantee agrees to comply with such lawful modifications to the City Code; however, Grantee reserves all rights it may have to challenge such modifications to the City Code whether arising in contract or at law. The City reserves all of its rights and defenses to such challenges whether arising in contract or at law. Nothing in this Franchise shall (A) abrogate the right of the City to perform any public works or public improvements of any description, (B) be construed as a waiver of any codes or ordinances of general applicability promulgated by the City, including the Right of Way ordinance, or (C) be construed as a waiver or release of the rights of the City in and to the Streets.
2.3 **Franchise Term.** The term of the Franchise shall be ten (10) years from the Effective Date, unless extended by mutual written consent in accordance with Section 17.7 or terminated sooner in accordance with this Franchise.

2.4 **Franchise Area.** This Franchise is granted for the Franchise Area defined herein. Grantee shall extend its Cable System to provide Service to any residential unit in the City in accordance with Section 6.8 herein.

2.5 **Franchise Nonexclusive.** The Franchise granted herein shall be nonexclusive. The City specifically reserves the right to grant, at any time, such additional franchises for a Cable System as it deems appropriate provided, however, such additional grants shall not operate to materially modify, revoke, or terminate any rights previously granted to Grantee other than as described in Section 17.18. The grant of any additional franchise shall not of itself be deemed to constitute a modification, revocation, or termination of rights previously granted to Grantee. Any additional cable franchise grants shall comply with Minn. Stat. § 238.08 and any other applicable federal level playing field requirements.

2.6 **Periodic Public Review of Franchise.** Within sixty (60) Days of the third (3rd) and sixth (6th) annual anniversary of the Effective Date of this Franchise, the City may conduct a public review of the Franchise. The purpose of any such review shall be to ensure, with the benefit of full opportunity for public comment, that the Grantee continues to effectively serve the public in the light of new developments in cable law and regulation, cable technology, cable company performance with the requirements of this Franchise, local regulatory environment, community needs and interests, and other such factors. Both the City and Grantee agree to make a full and good faith effort to participate in the review. So long as Grantee receives reasonable notice, Grantee shall participate in the review process and shall fully cooperate. The review shall not operate to modify or change any provision of this Franchise without mutual written consent in accordance with Section 17.7 of this Franchise.

2.7 **Transfer of Ownership.**

(a) No sale, transfer, assignment or “fundamental corporate change”, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 238.083, of this Franchise shall take place until the parties to the sale, transfer, or fundamental corporate change files a written request with City for its approval, provided, however, that said approval shall not be required where Grantee grants a security interest in its Franchise and assets to secure an indebtedness.

(b) City may determine that a public hearing is necessary due to potential adverse effect on Grantee’s Subscribers resulting from the sale or transfer.

(c) If a public hearing is deemed necessary pursuant to (b) above, such hearing shall be commenced within thirty (30) Days of such determination and notice of any such hearing shall be given in accordance with local law. The notice shall contain the date, time and place of the hearing and shall briefly state the substance of the action to be considered by City.
(d) City shall approve or deny in writing the sale or transfer request. City shall set forth in writing with particularity its reason(s) for denying approval. City shall not unreasonably withhold its approval.

(e) The parties to a sale or transfer of the Franchise only, without the inclusion of the System in which substantial construction has commenced, shall establish that the sale or transfer of only the Franchise will be in the public interest.

(f) Any sale or transfer of stock in Grantee so as to create a new controlling interest in the System shall be subject to the requirements of this Section 2.7. The term “controlling interest” as used herein is not limited to majority stock ownership, but includes actual working control in whatever manner exercised.

(g) In no event shall a transfer or assignment of ownership or control be approved without the transferee becoming a signatory to this Franchise and assuming all rights and obligations thereunder, and assuming all other rights and obligations of the transferor to the City.

(h) In accordance with Minn. Stat. § 238.084, Subd. 1(y), the City shall have the right to purchase the System in the event the Franchise or System is proposed to be transferred or sold on the same terms and conditions as the offer pursuant to which transfer notice was provided pursuant to this section. The City shall have thirty (30) days from receipt of an application for consent under this Section 2.7 in which to give notice of its intention to exercise such right.

2.8 Expiration. Upon expiration of the Franchise, the City shall have the right at its own election and subject to Grantee’s rights under Section 626 of the Cable Act to:

(a) extend the Franchise, though nothing in this provision shall be construed to require such extension;

(b) renew the Franchise, in accordance with Applicable Laws;

(c) invite additional franchise applications or proposals;

(d) terminate the Franchise subject to any rights Grantee has under Section 626 of the Cable Act; or

(e) take such other action as the City deems appropriate.

2.9 Right to Require Removal of Property. At the expiration of the term for which the Franchise is granted provided no renewal is granted, or upon its forfeiture or revocation as provided for herein, the City shall have the right to require Grantee to remove at Grantee’s own expense all or any part of the Cable System from all Streets and public ways within the Franchise Area within a reasonable time. If Grantee fails to do so, the City may perform the work and collect the cost thereof from Grantee. However, Grantee shall have no obligation to remove the Cable System where it utilizes the system to provide other non-cable services and has any other authority under
applicable law to maintain facilities in the public rights-of-way, or where Grantee is able to find a purchaser of the Cable System who holds such authorization.

2.10 **Continuity of Service Mandatory.** It shall be the right of all Subscribers to receive all available services insofar as their financial and other obligations to Grantee are honored. In the event that Grantee elects to overbuild, rebuild, modify, or sell the system, or the City revokes or fails to renew the Franchise, Grantee shall make its best effort to ensure that all Subscribers receive continuous uninterrupted service, regardless of the circumstances, while the Franchise remains effective. In the event of expiration, purchase, lease-purchase, condemnation, acquisition, taking over or holding of plant and equipment, sale, lease, or other transfer to any other Person, including any other grantee of a cable communications franchise, the current Grantee shall cooperate fully to operate the system in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Franchise for a temporary period sufficient in length to maintain continuity of service to all Subscribers.

**SECTION 3  OPERATION IN STREETS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY**

3.1 **Use of Streets.**

(a) Grantee may, subject to the terms of this Franchise and the City Code, erect, install, construct, repair, replace, reconstruct and retain in, on, over, under, upon, across and along the Streets within the City such lines, cables, conductors, ducts, conduits, vaults, manholes, amplifiers, appliances, pedestals, attachments and other property and equipment as are necessary and appurtenant to the operation of a Cable System within the City. Without limiting the foregoing, Grantee expressly agrees that it will construct, operate and maintain its Cable System in compliance with, and subject to, the requirements of the City Code, including by way of example and not limitation, those requirements governing the placement of Grantee’s Cable System; and with other applicable City Codes, and will obtain and maintain all permits and bonds required by the City Code in addition to those required in this Franchise.

(b) All wires, conduits, cable and other property and facilities of Grantee shall be so located, constructed, installed and maintained as not to endanger or unnecessarily interfere with the usual and customary trade, traffic and travel upon, or other use of the Streets of City. Grantee shall keep and maintain all of its property in good condition, order and repair so that the same shall not menace or endanger the life or property of any Person. Grantee shall keep accurate maps and records of all of its wires, conduits, cables and other property and facilities located, constructed and maintained in the City.

(c) All wires, conduits, cables and other property and facilities of Grantee, shall be constructed and installed in an orderly and professional manner. All wires, conduits and cables shall be installed, where possible, parallel with electric and telephone lines. Multiple cable configurations shall be arranged in parallel and bundled with due respect for engineering considerations.

3.2 **Construction or Alteration.** Grantee shall in all cases comply with applicable sections of the City Code, City resolutions and City regulations regarding the acquisition of permits and/or such other items as may be reasonably required in order to construct, alter or maintain the
Cable System. Grantee shall, upon request, provide information to the City regarding its progress in completing or altering the Cable System.

3.3 **Non-Interference.** Grantee shall exert its best efforts to construct and maintain a Cable System so as not to interfere with other use of Streets. Grantee shall, where possible in the case of above ground lines, make use of existing poles and other facilities available to Grantee. When residents receiving underground service or who will be receiving underground service will be affected by proposed construction or alteration, Grantee shall provide such notice as set forth in the permit or in City Code of the same to such affected residents.

3.4 **Consistency with Designated Use.** Notwithstanding the above grant to use Streets, no Street shall be used by Grantee if the City, in its sole opinion, determines that such use is inconsistent with the terms, conditions or provisions by which such Street was created or dedicated, or presently used under Applicable Laws.

3.5 **Undergrounding.** Grantee shall place underground all of its transmission lines which are located or are to be located above or within the Streets of the City in the following cases:

(a) all other existing utilities are required to be placed underground by statute, resolution, policy or other Applicable Law;

(b) Grantee is unable to get pole clearance;

(c) underground easements are obtained from developers of new residential areas; or

(d) utilities are overhead but residents prefer underground (undergrounding provided at cost paid by benefitted residents).

If an ordinance is passed which involves placing underground certain utilities including Grantee’s cable plant which is then located overhead, Grantee shall participate in such underground project and shall remove poles, cables and overhead wires if requested to do so and place facilities underground. Nothing herein shall mandate that City provide reimbursement to Grantee for the costs of such relocation and removal. However, if the City makes available funds for the cost of placing facilities underground, nothing herein shall preclude the Grantee from participating in such funding to the extent consistent with the City Code or Applicable Laws.

Grantee shall use conduit or its functional equivalent to the greatest extent possible for undergrounding, except for Drops from pedestals to Subscribers’ homes and for cable on other private property where the owner requests that conduit not be used. Cable and conduit shall be utilized which meets the highest industry standards for electronic performance and resistance to interference or damage from environmental factors. Grantee shall use, in conjunction with other utility companies or providers, common trenches for underground construction wherever available.

3.6 **Maintenance and Restoration.**
(a) Restoration. In case of disturbance of any Street, public way, paved area or public improvement, Grantee shall, at its own cost and expense and in accordance with the requirements of the City Code restore such Street, public way, paved area or public improvement to substantially the same condition as existed before the work involving such disturbance took place. All requirements of this section pertaining to public property shall also apply to the restoration of private easements and other private property. Grantee shall perform all restoration work within a reasonable time and with due regard to seasonal working conditions, but not to exceed ninety (90) days. If Grantee fails, neglects or refuses to make restorations as required under this section, then the City may do such work or cause it to be done, and the cost thereof to the City shall be paid by Grantee. If Grantee causes any damage to private property in the process of restoring facilities, Grantee shall repair such damage.

(b) Maintenance. Grantee shall maintain all above ground improvements that it places on City right-of-way pursuant to the City Code and any permit issued by the City. In order to avoid interference with the City’s ability to maintain the right-of-way, Grantee shall provide such clearance as is required by the City Code and any permit issued by the City. If Grantee fails to comply with this provision, and by its failure, property is damaged, Grantee shall be responsible for all damages caused thereby.

(c) Disputes. In any dispute over the adequacy of restoration or maintenance relative to this section, final determination shall be the prerogative of the City, Department of Public Works and consistent with the City Code and any permit issued by the City.

3.7 Work on Private Property. Grantee, with the consent of property owners, shall have the authority, pursuant to the City Code, to trim trees upon and overhanging Streets, alleys, sidewalks, and public ways so as to prevent the branches of such trees from coming in contact with the wires and cables of Grantee, except that at the option of the City, such trimming may be done by it or under its supervision and direction at the reasonable expense of Grantee.

3.8 Relocation.

(a) Public Property. Grantee shall relocate its System and facilities in accordance with the City Code. In addition, if, during the term of the Franchise, the City or any government entity elects or requires a third party to alter, repair, realign, abandon, improve, vacate, reroute or change the grade of any Street, public right-of-way or other public property; or to construct, maintain or repair any public improvement; or to replace, repair install, maintain, or otherwise alter any cable, wire conduit, pipe, line, pole, wire-holding structure, structure, or other facility, including a facility used for the provision of utility or other services or transportation of drainage, sewage or other liquids, for any public purpose, Grantee shall, upon request, except as otherwise hereinafter provided, at its sole expense remove or relocate as necessary its poles, wires, cables, underground conduits, vaults, pedestals, manholes and any other facilities which it has installed. Nothing herein shall mandate that City provide reimbursement to Grantee for the costs of such relocation and removal. However, if the City makes available funds for the cost of placing facilities underground, nothing herein shall preclude the Grantee from participating in such funding to the extent consistent with the City Code or Applicable Laws.
(b) Utilities and Other Franchisees. If, during the term of the Franchise, another entity which holds a franchise or any utility requests Grantee to remove or relocate such facilities to accommodate the construction, maintenance or repair of the requesting party’s facilities, or their more efficient use, or to “make ready” the requesting party’s facilities for use by others, or because Grantee is using a facility which the requesting party has a right or duty to remove, Grantee shall do so. The companies involved may decide among themselves who is to bear the cost of removal or relocation, pursuant to City Code, and provided that the City shall not be liable for such costs.

(c) Notice to Remove or Relocate. Any Person requesting Grantee to remove or relocate its facilities shall give Grantee no less than forty-five (45) Days’ advance written notice to Grantee advising Grantee of the date or dates removal or relocation is to be undertaken; provided, that no advance written notice shall be required in emergencies or in cases where public health and safety or property is endangered.

(d) Failure by Grantee to Remove or Relocate. If Grantee fails, neglects or refuses to remove or relocate its facilities as directed by the City; or in emergencies or where public health and safety or property is endangered, the City may do such work or cause it to be done, and the cost thereof to the City shall be paid by Grantee. If Grantee fails, neglects or refuses to remove or relocate its facilities as directed by another franchisee or utility, that franchisee or utility may do such work or cause it to be done, and if Grantee would have been liable for the cost of performing such work, the cost thereof to the party performing the work or having the work performed shall be paid by Grantee.

(e) Procedure for Removal of Cable. Grantee shall not remove any underground cable or conduit which requires trenching or other opening of the Streets along the extension of cable to be removed, except as hereinafter provided. Grantee may remove any underground cable from the Streets which has been installed in such a manner that it can be removed without trenching or other opening of the Streets along the extension of cable to be removed. Subject to Applicable Law, Grantee shall remove, at its sole cost and expense, any underground cable or conduit by trenching or opening of the Streets along the extension thereof or otherwise which is ordered to be removed by the City based upon a determination, in the sole discretion of the City, that removal is required in order to eliminate or prevent a hazardous condition. Underground cable and conduit in the Streets which is not removed shall be deemed abandoned and title thereto shall be vested in the City.

(f) Movement of Buildings. Grantee shall, upon request by any Person holding a building moving permit, franchise or other approval issued by the City, temporarily remove, raise or lower its wire to permit the movement of buildings. The expense of such removal, raising or lowering shall be paid by the Person requesting same, and Grantee shall be authorized to require such payment in advance. The City shall require all building movers to provide not less than fifteen (15) Days’ notice to the cable company to arrange for such temporary wire changes.
SECTION 4 REMOVAL OR ABANDONMENT OF SYSTEM

4.1 Removal of Cable System. In the event that: (1) the use of the Cable System is discontinued for any reason for a continuous period of twelve (12) months; or (2) the Cable System has been installed in a Street without complying with the requirements of this Franchise, Grantee, at its expense shall, at the demand of the City remove promptly from the Streets all of the Cable System other than any which the City may permit to be abandoned in place. In the event of any such removal Grantee shall promptly restore the Street to a condition as nearly as possible to its prior condition the Street or other public places in the City from which the System has been removed. However, Grantee shall have no obligation to remove the Cable System where it utilizes the system to provide other non-cable services and has any other authority under applicable law to maintain facilities in the public rights-of-way, or where Grantee is able to find a purchaser of the Cable System who holds such authorization.

4.2 Abandonment of Cable System. In the event of Grantee’s abandonment of the Cable System, City shall have the right to require Grantee to conform to the state right-of-way rules, Minn. Rules, Chapter 7819. The Cable System to be abandoned in place shall be abandoned in the manner prescribed by the City. Grantee may not abandon any portion of the System without having first given three (3) months written notice to the City. Grantee may not abandon any portion of the System without compensating the City for damages resulting from the abandonment.

4.3 Removal after Abandonment or Termination. If Grantee has failed to commence removal of System, or such part thereof as was designated by City, within thirty (30) days after written notice of City’s demand for removal consistent with Minn. Rules, Ch. 7819, is given, or if Grantee has failed to complete such removal within twelve (12) months after written notice of City’s demand for removal is given, City shall have the right to apply funds secured by the letter of credit and performance bond toward removal and/or declare all right, title, and interest to the Cable System to be in City with all rights of ownership including, but not limited to, the right to operate the Cable System or transfer the Cable System to another for operation by it.

4.4 City Options for Failure to Remove Cable System. If Grantee has failed to complete such removal within the time given after written notice of the City’s demand for removal is given, the City shall have the right to exercise one of the following options:

(a) Declare all right, title and interest to the System to be in the City or its designee with all rights of ownership including, but not limited to, the right to operate the System or transfer the System to another for operation by it; or

(b) Declare the System abandoned and cause the System, or such part thereof as the City shall designate, to be removed at no cost to the City. The cost of said removal shall be recoverable from the security fund, indemnity and penalty section provided for in this Franchise or from Grantee directly.

(c) Upon termination of service to any Subscriber, Grantee shall promptly remove all its facilities and equipment from within the dwelling of a Subscriber who owns such dwelling upon his or her written request, except as provided by Applicable Law. Such
Subscribers shall be responsible for any costs incurred by Grantee in removing the facilities and equipment.

4.5 System Construction and Equipment Standards. The Cable System shall be installed and maintained in accordance with standard good engineering practices and shall conform, when applicable, with the National Electrical Safety Code, the National Electrical Code and the FCC’s Rules and Regulations.

4.6 System Maps and Layout. Grantee shall maintain complete and accurate system maps, which shall include trunks, distribution lines, and nodes. Such maps shall include up-to-date route maps showing the location of the Cable System adjacent to the Streets. Grantee shall make all maps available for review by the appropriate City personnel.

SECTION 5
SYSTEM DESIGN AND CAPACITY

5.1 Availability of Signals and Equipment.

(a) The Cable System utilizes a Fiber to the Fiber node architecture, with Fiber Optic cable deployed from Grantee’s Headend to Grantee’s Fiber nodes, tying into Grantee’s coaxial Cable System serving Subscribers. The System is currently passing a minimum of 750 MHz (with a minimum passband of between 50 and 750 MHz) and shall be maintained to provide to Subscribers at least 200 or more activated minimum downstream video Channels, or such comparable video viewing capability as is provided in light of developing technologies and video distribution practices in the future.

(b) The entire System shall be technically capable of transmitting industry-standard digital television signals in a manner and quality consistent with applicable FCC regulations.

(c) Grantee agrees to maintain the Cable System in a manner consistent with, or in excess of the specifications in Section 5.1 (a) and (b) throughout the term of the Franchise with sufficient capability and technical quality to enable the implementation and performance of all the requirements of this Franchise, including the Exhibits hereto, and in a manner which meets or exceeds FCC technical quality standards at 47 C.F.R. § 76 Subpart K, regardless of the particular format in which a Signal is transmitted.

5.2 Equal and Uniform Service. Grantee shall provide access to equal and uniform Cable Service throughout the City to the extent required by applicable law.

5.3 System Specifications.

(a) System Maintenance. In all its construction and service provision activities, Grantee shall meet or exceed the construction, technical performance, extension and service requirements set forth in this Franchise.
(b) **Emergency Alert Capability.** At all times during the term of this Franchise, Grantee shall provide and maintain an Emergency Alert System (EAS) consistent with applicable Federal law and regulations including 47 C.F.R., Part 11, and any Minnesota State Emergency Alert System requirements. The City may identify authorized emergency officials for activating the EAS insofar as the City’s process is consistent with the Minnesota State Emergency Statewide Plan (“EAS Plan”). The City may also develop a local plan containing methods of EAS message distribution, insofar as the local plan is consistent with Applicable Laws and the EAS Plan.

(c) **Standby Power.** Grantee shall provide standby power generating capacity at the Cable System control center and at all hubs. Grantee shall maintain standby power system supplies, rated at least at two (2) hours’ duration, throughout the trunk and distribution networks. In addition, Grantee shall have in place throughout the Franchise term a plan, and all resources necessary for implementation of the plan, for dealing with outages of more than two (2) hours.

(d) **Technical Standards.** The technical standards used in the operation of the Cable System shall comply, at minimum, with the technical standards promulgated by the FCC relating to Cable Systems pursuant to Title 47, Section 76, Subpart K of the Code of Federal Regulations, as may be amended or modified from time to time, which regulations are expressly incorporated herein by reference. The Cable System shall be installed and maintained in accordance with standard good engineering practices and shall conform with the National Electrical Safety Code and all other Applicable Laws governing the construction of the Cable System.

5.4 **Performance Testing.** Grantee shall perform all system tests at the intervals required by the FCC, and all other tests reasonably necessary to determine compliance with technical standards required by this Franchise.

5.5 **Special Testing.**

(a) Throughout the term of this Franchise, City shall have the right to inspect all construction or installation work performed pursuant to the provisions of the Franchise. In addition, City may require special testing of a location or locations within the System if there is a particular matter of controversy or unresolved complaints regarding such construction or installation work or pertaining to such location(s). Demand for such special tests may be made on the basis of complaints received or other evidence indicating an unresolved controversy or noncompliance. Such tests shall be limited to the particular matter in controversy or unresolved complaints. City shall endeavor to so arrange its request for such special testing so as to minimize hardship or inconvenience to Grantee or to the Subscribers caused by such testing.

(b) Before ordering such tests, Grantee shall be afforded thirty (30) Days following receipt of written notice to investigate and, if necessary, correct problems or complaints upon which tests were ordered. City shall meet with Grantee prior to requiring special tests to discuss the need for such and, if possible, visually inspect those locations which are the focus of concern. If, after such meetings and inspections, City wishes to
commence special tests and the thirty (30) Days have elapsed without correction of the matter in controversy or unresolved complaints, the tests shall be conducted at Grantee’s expense by Grantee’s qualified engineer. The City shall have a right to participate in such testing by having an engineer of City’s choosing, and at City’s expense, observe and monitor said testing.

SECTION 6 PROGRAMMING AND SERVICES

6.1 Categories of Programming Service. Grantee shall provide video programming services in at least the following broad categories:

- Local Broadcast (subject to federal carriage requirements)
- Public Broadcast
- News and Information
- Sports
- General Entertainment
- Arts/Performance/Humanities
- Science/Technology
- Children/Family/Seniors
- Foreign Language/Ethnic Programming
- PEG Access Programming (to the extent required by the Franchise)
- Movies
- Leased Access

6.2 Changes in Programming Services. Grantee shall provide at least thirty (30) Days’ prior written notice to Subscribers and to the City of Grantee’s request to effectively delete any broad category of programming or any Channel within its control, including all proposed changes in bandwidth or Channel allocation and any assignments including any new equipment requirements that may occur as a result of these changes.

6.3 Parental Control Device or Capability. Upon request by any Subscriber, Grantee shall make available a parental control or lockout device or functionality that will enable the Subscriber to block all access to any and all Channels without affecting those not blocked. Grantee shall inform Subscribers of the availability of the lockout device or functionality at the time of original subscription and annually thereafter.

6.4 FCC Reports. The results of any tests required to be filed by Grantee with the FCC shall also be available to the City upon request.

6.5 Free Cable Service to Public Buildings.

(a) Throughout the term of this Franchise, Grantee shall provide, free of charge, one (1) service Drop, up to three (3) Converters if necessary, and Digital Starter Service or equivalent service which includes the PEG Channels (“Complimentary Service”), to all of the sites listed on Exhibit A attached hereto. City and Grantee do not waive any rights under Applicable Law regarding Complimentary Service. Should Grantee elect under Applicable Law to begin offsetting the value of Complimentary Service against Franchise
Fees, Grantee shall first provide City with notice in accordance with section 16.1(f) herein before beginning any such offset, and further provided that Grantee shall only offset for Complimentary Service in the event Grantee begins offsetting the value of similar complimentary services provided to other local franchising authorities in the Twin Cities region, and provided that Grantee shall not offset for Complimentary Service provided to schools and public libraries during the term of this Franchise.

(b) If any newly installed Drop line to a building listed on Exhibit A exceeds two hundred (200) feet, Grantee will pay the cost of such Drop up to two hundred (200) feet, with the City or other agency paying the remainder, if the City or other agency provides the necessary attachment point for aerial service or conduit pathway for underground service. If the necessary pathway is not provided, the City or other agency shall pay the incremental cost of such Drop in excess of one hundred fifty (150) feet for an aerial service Drop, or in excess of one hundred twenty-five (125) feet for an underground service Drop. For purposes of this paragraph, “incremental cost” means Grantee’s actual cost to provide the Drop beyond the applicable distances, with no mark-up for profit. The recipient of the service will secure any necessary right of entry.

(c) The City or the building occupant shall have the right to extend Cable Service throughout the building to additional outlets without any fees imposed by Grantee for the provision of Complimentary Service to such additional outlets. If ancillary equipment, such as a Converter, is required to receive the signal at additional outlets, Grantee will provide (in addition to the three (3) devices per site free of charge) additional devices at Grantee’s lowest residential rate charged within the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

6.6 Limitation on Free Service. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth in this section, Grantee shall not be required to provide Complimentary Service to such buildings unless it is technically feasible. Outlets and maintenance of said Complimentary Service shall be provided free of fees and charges.

6.7 Annexation. Unless otherwise provided by Applicable Law, including the City Code, upon the annexation of any additional land area by City, the annexed area shall thereafter be subject to all the terms of this Franchise upon sixty (60) Days written notification to Grantee of the annexation by City. Unless otherwise required by Applicable Laws, nothing herein shall require the Grantee to expand its Cable System to serve, or to offer Cable Service to any area annexed by the City if such area is then served by another Wireline MVPD franchised to provide multichannel video programming.

6.8 Line Extension.

(a) Grantee shall construct and operate its Cable System so as to provide Cable Service within the Franchise Area where there exists a density equivalent of seven (7) dwelling units per one-quarter (1/4) mile of feeder cable as measured from the nearest active plant of the Cable System if the extension is to be constructed using aerial plant, and nine (9) dwelling units per one-quarter (1/4) mile of feeder cable as measured from the nearest active plant if the extension is to be constructed using underground plant. The City,
for its part, shall endeavor to exercise reasonable efforts to require developers and utility companies to provide the Grantee with at least fifteen (15) Days advance notice of an available open trench for the placement of necessary cable.

(b) Any residential unit located within one hundred twenty-five (125) feet from the nearest point of access on the Street from which the Cable System is designed to serve the site shall be connected to the Cable System at no charge other than the standard installation charge. Grantee shall, upon request by any potential Subscriber residing in City beyond the one hundred twenty-five (125) foot limit, extend service to such Subscriber provided that the Subscriber shall pay the net additional Drop costs, unless the Grantee agrees to waive said costs. To the extent consistent with Applicable Laws, Grantee agrees that it shall impose installation costs for non-standard installations in a uniform and nondiscriminatory manner throughout the City.

6.9 Nonvoice Return Capability. Grantee is required to use cable and associated electronics having the technical capacity for nonvoice return communications.

SECTION 7 PUBLIC, EDUCATIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL ACCESS

7.1 Number of PEG Access Channels. Upon the Effective Date of this Franchise, Grantee will make available a minimum of 3 PEG Access Channels in Standard Definition (SD). Grantee shall provide the Access Channels on the Basic Tier or such other most-basic tier of service as may be offered by Grantee in accordance with the Cable Act, Section 611, and as further set forth in this Section 7.

(a) PEG Access Channels and programming may be delivered by City to Grantee in SD or High Definition (HD) format. Grantee shall provide all necessary transmission equipment from the demarcation point and throughout Grantee’s distribution system, in order to deliver the PEG Access Channels to Subscribers. Access Channel Signals delivered in HD format to Grantee shall not require Grantee to deliver such HD signals to Subscribers except as set forth in this Section 7.

(b) For purposes of this Franchise, an HD signal refers to a television signal delivering picture resolution of either 720p or greater, or such other resolution in this same range that company utilizes for other similar non-sport, non-movie programming channels on the Cable System, whichever is greater.

7.2 HD PEG Channels.

(a) Upon one hundred and twenty (120) days’ written notice from the City, Grantee shall provide SD/HD simulcast capability to one (1) of the PEG Access Channels, which Channel shall be selected by the City. No sooner than twelve (12) months after the Effective Date, in the event the City produces sufficient locally-produced or local interest HD programming to program at least eight (8) hours of programming per week on a second Channel, the Grantee shall, upon one hundred and twenty (120) days’ written notice by the City, provide SD/HD simulcast capability to a second SD PEG Access Channel selected by the City. Following implementation of all HD PEG Channels as set forth in this section
7.2(a), the City will have two (2) simulcast SD/HD PEG Channels and one (1) remaining SD PEG Channel.

(b) At such time as 80% of the Grantee’s Basic Service tier Channels are provided exclusively in HD format, Grantee shall, upon 120 days’ notice by the City, convert the remaining SD PEG Channel to HD. For purposes of calculating the 80% threshold, “on demand” programming and similar programming shall not be considered a Channel even if available to Basic Service tier Subscribers.

(c) The City acknowledges that receipt of an HD format PEG Access Channel may require Subscribers to buy or lease special equipment, or pay additional HD charges applicable to all HD services.

(d) Any costs of end-user equipment associated with the delivery of SD PEG Access channels in HD format beyond the Demarcation Point shall be borne by the City, which may be paid for out of PEG funds.

(e) The City is responsible for acquiring all equipment necessary to produce programming in HD, which may be paid for out of PEG funds.

(f) Grantee shall have the right to use any technology to deploy or deliver HD signals (including selection of compression, utilization of IP and other processing characteristics) so long as it produces signal quality for the consumer that is reasonably comparable (from the viewer’s standpoint) and functionally equivalent to similar commercial HD signals carried on the cable system.

7.3 Control of PEG Access Channels. The control and administration of the PEG Access Channels shall rest with the City. The City may delegate, from time to time over the term of this Franchise, such control and administration to various entities as determined in City’s sole discretion.

7.4 Transmission of Access Channels. PEG Access Channels may be used for transmission of non-video signals in compliance with Applicable Laws. This may include downstream transmission of data using a protocol such as TCP/IP or current industry standards. Should Grantee develop the capability to provide bi-directional data transmission, spectrum capacity shall be sufficient to allow Subscribers to transmit data to PEG facilities.

7.5 PEG Access Channel Locations.

(a) PEG Access Channels shall be carried on the Basic Cable Service tier as set forth in Section 7.1 herein. Nothing herein precludes the Grantee from charging for equipment needed for Basic Cable Service. Grantee shall initially continue cablecasting programming on the PEG Access Channels on the Cable System on the same Channel designations as such programming is cablecast within the City as of the Effective Date. In no event shall any PEG Access Channel reallocations be made prior to ninety (90) Days written notice to the City by Grantee, except for circumstances beyond Grantee’s reasonable control. The PEG Access Channels will be located within reasonable proximity
to other commercial video or broadcast Channels, excluding pay-per-view programming offered by Grantee in the City.

(b) Grantee agrees not to encrypt the PEG Access Channels differently than other commercial Channels available on the Cable System.

(c) Grantee shall make reasonable efforts to minimize channel movements for PEG Access Channels, and shall make reasonable efforts to locate both SD and HD PEG Access Channels in its lineup in a manner that is easily accessible to subscribers. In the event an SD PEG Access Channel is moved, Grantee will pay all reasonable costs or expenses of the City arising out of the Channel move, including but not limited to, reasonable marketing and constituency notification costs, up to a maximum of $5,000.

7.6 Navigation to PEG Access Channels/Electronic Programming Guide. Grantee agrees that if it utilizes a visual interface on its Cable System for all Channels, the PEG Access Channels shall be treated in a non-discriminatory fashion consistent with Applicable Laws so that Subscribers will have ready access to PEG Access Channels. Within sixty (60) Days of the Effective Date, Grantee will make available to City the ability to place PEG channel programming information on the interactive channel guide via the electronic programming guide (“EPG”) vendor (“EPG provider”) that Grantee utilizes to provide the guide service. Grantee will be responsible for providing the designations and instructions necessary for the PEG Access Channels to appear on the EPG. All costs and operational requirements of the EPG provider shall be the responsibility of the City. City acknowledges that Grantee is not responsible for operations of the EPG provider.

7.7 Ownership of PEG Access Channels. Grantee 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 position so designated. Grantee shall not exercise editorial control over any public, educational, or governmental use of a Channel position, except Grantee may refuse to transmit any public access program or portion of a public access program that contains obscenity, indecency, or nudity in violation of Applicable Law.

7.8 Noncommercial Use of PEG. Only noncommercial uses of the PEG Access Channels shall be permitted. Permitted noncommercial uses of the PEG Access Channels shall include, by way of example and not limitation, the following: (1) the identification of financial supporters of PEG programming similar to what is provided on public broadcasting stations; (2) the solicitation of financial support for the provision of PEG programming by the City or third party users for charitable, educational or governmental purposes; (3) programming offered by accredited, non-profit, educational institutions which may, for example, offer telecourses over a PEG Access Channel; or (4) the delivery of governmental programming, information, or data via a PEG Access Channel.

7.9 Dedicated Fiber Return Lines. In addition to the requirements of section 7.4 above, the Grantee will maintain all existing fiber paths in place as of the Effective Date to facilitate PEG origination/return capacity in the City to allow the origination of PEG programming (video or character generated). Such fiber returns paths are listed in Exhibit B attached hereto. Grantee
shall not be responsible for fiber “replacement” but will handle any damage and all maintenance on the existing fiber. Grantee anticipates, but cannot guarantee, that that this will result in minimal fiber expenditures by the City over the Franchise term.

7.10 **Interconnection.** Grantee shall continue to make the fiber loop known as the PRIMSA Ring available to City until the network equipment servicing the PRIMSA Ring as of the Effective Date is at the end of life. The City can use the PRIMSA Ring to send and receive live and recorded programming for playback. Grantee shall provide City access to the PRIMSA Ring at an agreed upon Demarcation Point. Grantee will provide use of and maintain the PRIMSA Ring free of charge but Grantee will not be obligated to replace network equipment on the PRISMA Ring or for any equipment on the City’s side of the Demarcation Point.

7.11 **Ancillary Equipment.** Any ancillary equipment operated by Grantee for the benefit of PEG Access Channels on Grantee’s fiber paths or Cable System, whether referred to switchers, routers or other equipment, will be maintained by Grantee, at no cost to the City or schools for the life of the Franchise. Grantee is responsible for any ancillary equipment on its side of the demarcation point and the City or school is responsible for all other production/playback equipment.

7.12 **Universal PEG Tier.** The Grantee shall continue providing the Universal PEG Tier free of charge to all Persons receiving such service as of the Effective Date as long as it remains technically and economically possible to provide such service. The Universal PEG Tier shall be continued for the term of the Franchise or until all current recipients discontinue such service, or until such time as Grantee’s Basic Service Tier Channels are provided in HD only. The "Universal PEG Tier" shall mean all SD PEG channels identified in this Franchise or subsequently added pursuant to the Franchise.

7.13 **Future Fiber Return Lines for PEG.** At such time that the City determines:

    (a) that the City desires the capacity to allow Subscribers in the City to receive PEG programming (video or character generated) which may originate from schools, City facilities, other government facilities or other designated facilities (other than those indicated in paragraph 9); or

    (b) that the City desires to establish or change a locations from which PEG programming is originated; or

    (c) that the City desires to upgrade the Connection to Grantee from an existing signal point of origination,

the City will give Grantee written notice detailing the point of origination and the capability sought by the City. After an agreement to reimburse Grantee for Grantee’s out of pocket time and material costs, Grantee will implement any necessary Cable System changes within a reasonable period of time. Nothing herein prevents the City, or a private contractor retained by the City, from constructing said return fiber.

7.14 **Access Channel Carriage.**
(a) Grantee shall provide all necessary transmission equipment from the demarcation point and throughout Grantee’s distribution system in order to deliver the PEG Access Channels. Any and all costs associated with any modification of the Access Channels or signals after the Access Channels/signals leave the City’s designated playback facilities, or any designated playback center authorized by the City shall be borne entirely by Grantee. Grantee shall not cause any programming to override PEG programming on any Access Channel, except by oral or written permission from the City, with the exception of emergency alert signals.

(b) The City may request and Grantee shall provide an additional Access Channel when the cumulative time on all the existing Access Channels combined meets the following standard: whenever one (1) of the Access Channels in use during eighty percent (80%) of the weekdays, Monday through Friday, for eighty percent (80%) of the time during a consecutive three (3) hour period for six (6) weeks running, and there is a demand for use of an additional Channel for the same purpose, the Grantee has six (6) months in which to provide a new, Access Channel for the same purpose; provided that, the provision of the additional Channel or Channels does not require the Cable System to install Converters.

(c) The VHF spectrum shall be used for one (1) of the public, educational, or governmental specially designated Access Channels.

(d) The City or its designee shall be responsible for developing, implementing, interpreting and enforcing rules for PEG Access Channel use.

(e) The Grantee shall monitor the Access Channels for technical quality to ensure that they meet FCC technical standards including those applicable to the carriage of Access Channels, provided however, that the Grantee is not responsible for the production quality of PEG programming productions. The City, or its designee, shall be responsible for the production and quality of all PEG access programming. Grantee shall carry all components of the standard definition of Access Channel including, but not limited to, closed captioning, stereo audio and other elements associated with the programming.

7.15 Access Channel Support.

(a) Effective with the first Subscriber bill after the Effective Date of this Franchise, Grantee shall pay to City a fee equal to 2% of Gross Revenues in support of PEG (“PEG Fee”) for the duration of this Franchise, or such lower amount as may be subsequently determined by the City to be sufficient to fund PEG expenditures in accordance with Applicable Law. Payments pursuant to this subsection shall be paid quarterly to the City (or its designated access entity) on the same schedule as the Franchise Fee payments.

(b) The PEG Fee may be used by City to fund PEG expenditures in accordance with Applicable Law.

(c) The PEG Fee is not part of the Franchise Fee and instead falls within one or more of the exceptions in 47 U.S.C. § 542. The PEG Fee may be categorized, itemized,
and passed through to Subscribers as permissible, in accordance with 47 U.S.C. § 542 or other Applicable Laws. Grantee shall pay the PEG Fee to the City quarterly at the same time as the payment of Franchise Fees under Section 16.1 of the Franchise. Grantee agrees that it will not offset or reduce its payment of past, present or future Franchise Fees required as a result of its obligation to remit the PEG Fee.

(d) Any PEG Fees owing pursuant to this Franchise which remain unpaid more than thirty (30) Days after the date the payment is due shall be delinquent and shall thereafter accrue interest at twelve percent (12%) per annum or the prime lending rate published by the Wall Street Journal on the Day the payment was due plus two percent (2%), whichever is greater.

7.16 **PEG Technical Quality.**

(a) Grantee shall not be required to carry a PEG Access Channel in a higher quality format than that of the Channel Signal delivered to Grantee, but Grantee shall not implement a change in the method of delivery of Access Channels that results in a material degradation of signal quality or impairment of viewer reception of Access Channels, provided that this requirement shall not prohibit Grantee from implementing new technologies also utilized for commercial Channels carried on its Cable System. Grantee shall meet FCC signal quality standards when offering Access Channels on its Cable System and shall continue to comply with closed captioning pass-through requirements.

(b) Within twenty-four (24) hours of a written or e-mailed request from City to the Grantee identifying a technical problem with a Access Channel and requesting assistance, Grantee will provide technical assistance or diagnostic services to determine whether or not a problem with a PEG signal is the result of matters for which Grantee is responsible and if so, Grantee will take prompt corrective action. If the problem persists and there is a dispute about the cause, then the parties shall meet with engineering representation from Grantee and the City in order to determine the course of action to remedy the problem.

7.17 **Access Channel Promotion.**

At such time as an Access Channel is moved or, relocated or launched in HD, Grantee shall provide a bill message announcing the change upon the written or e-mailed request of the City.

7.18 **Change in Technology.** In the event Grantee makes any change in the Cable System and related equipment and facilities or in its signal delivery technology, which requires the City to obtain new equipment in order to be compatible with such change for purposes of transport and delivery of the Access Channels, Grantee shall, at its own expense and free of charge to City or its designated entities, purchase such equipment as may be necessary to facilitate the cablecasting of the Access Channels in accordance with the requirements of the Franchise.

7.19 **Relocation of Grantee’s Headend.** In the event Grantee relocates its headend, Grantee will be responsible for replacing or restoring the existing dedicated fiber connections at
Grantee’s cost so that all the functions and capacity remain available, operate reliably and satisfy all applicable technical standards and related obligations of the Franchise free of charge to the City or its designated entities.

7.20 **Regional Channel Six.** Grantee shall make available Regional Channel Six as long as it is required to do so by Applicable Law.

7.21 **Compliance with Minnesota Statutes Chapter 238.** In addition to the requirements contained in this Section 7 of this Franchise, Grantee and City shall comply with the PEG requirements mandated by Minn. Stat. § 238.084.

**SECTION 8 REGULATORY PROVISIONS**

8.1 **Regulation of Rates and Charges.**

   (a) **Right to Regulate.** The City reserves the right to regulate rates or charges for any Cable Service within the limits of Applicable Law, to enforce rate regulations prescribed by the FCC, and to establish procedures for said regulation or enforcement.

   (b) **Notice of Change in Rates and Charges.** Throughout the term of this Franchise, Grantee shall give the City and all Subscribers within the City at least thirty (30) Days’ notice of any intended modifications or additions to Subscriber rates or charges. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the reduction or waiving of rates or charges in conjunction with promotional campaigns for the purpose of attracting Subscribers or users.

   (c) **Rate Discrimination Prohibited.** Within any category of Subscribers, Grantee shall not discriminate among Subscribers with regard to rates and charges made for any service based on considerations of race, color, creed, sex, marital or economic status, national origin, sexual preference, except as otherwise provided herein; and for purposes of setting rates and charges, no categorization of Subscribers shall be made by Grantee on the basis of those considerations. Nevertheless, Grantee shall be permitted to establish (1) discounted rates and charges for providing Cable Service to low-income, handicapped, or low-income elderly Subscribers, (2) promotional rates, and (3) bulk rate and package discount pricing.

**SECTION 9 BOND**

9.1 **Performance Bond.** Upon the Effective Date of this Franchise and at all times thereafter Grantee shall maintain with City a bond in the sum of $100,000.00 in such form and with such sureties as shall be acceptable to City, conditioned upon the faithful performance by Grantee of this Franchise and the acceptance hereof given by City and upon the further condition that in the event Grantee shall fail to comply with any law, ordinance or regulation, there shall be recoverable jointly and severally from the principal and surety of the bond, any damages or losses suffered by City as a result, including the full amount of any compensation, indemnification or cost of removal of any property of Grantee, including a reasonable allowance for attorneys’ fees and costs (with interest at two percent (2%) in excess of the then prime rate), up to the full amount of the bond, and which bond shall further guarantee payment by Grantee of all claims and liens.
against City or any, public property, and taxes due to City, which arise by reason of the construction, operation, maintenance or use of the Cable System.

9.2 **Rights.** The rights reserved by City with respect to the bond are in addition to all other rights the City may have under this Franchise or any other law.

9.3 **Reduction of Bond Amount.** City may, in its sole discretion, reduce the amount of the bond.

**SECTION 10 SECURITY FUND**

10.1 **Security Fund.** If the City determines that there is an uncured breach by Grantee of a material provision of this Franchise or a pattern of repeated violations of any provision(s) of this Franchise, then Grantee shall, upon written request, establish and provide to the City, as security for the faithful performance by Grantee of all of the provisions of this Franchise, an irrevocable letter of credit from a financial institution satisfactory to the City in the amount of Twenty-five Thousand and No/100 Dollars ($25,000.00). In no event shall Grantee fail to post a Twenty-five Thousand and No/100 Dollar ($25,000.00) letter of credit within thirty (30) days receipt of a notice of franchise violation pursuant to this Section 10.1. Failure to post said letter of credit shall constitute a separate material violation of this Franchise, unless the breach is cured within such thirty (30) Day period or longer period allowed under the Franchise. The letter of credit shall serve as a common security fund for the faithful performance by Grantee of all the provisions of this Franchise and compliance with all orders, permits and directions of the City and the payment by Grantee of any claim, liens, costs, expenses and taxes due the City which arise by reason of the construction, operation or maintenance of the Cable System. Interest on this deposit shall be paid to Grantee by the bank on an annual basis. The security may be terminated by the Grantee upon the resolution of the alleged noncompliance. The obligation to establish the security fund required by this paragraph is unconditional. The fund must be established in those circumstances where Grantee disputes the allegation that it is not in compliance, and maintained for the duration of the dispute. If Grantee fails to establish the security fund as required, the City may take whatever action is appropriate to require the establishment of that fund and shall be entitled to an award of its costs, and reasonable attorneys’ fees in that action.

10.2 **Withdrawal of Funds.** The irrevocable letter of credit shall permit the City to withdraw funds upon demand (sight draft). Grantee shall not use the security fund for other purposes and shall not assign, pledge or otherwise use this security fund as security for any purpose.

10.3 **Restoration of Funds.** Within ten (10) Days after notice to it that any amount has been withdrawn by the City from the security fund pursuant to 10.4 of this section, Grantee shall deposit a sum of money sufficient to restore such security fund to the required amount.

10.4 **Liquidated Damages.** In addition to recovery of any monies owed by Grantee to City or damages to City as a result of any acts or omissions by Grantee pursuant to the Franchise, City in its sole discretion may charge to and collect from the security fund liquidated damages in the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars ($250.00) per day for each day, or part thereof, that any Franchise breach for non-compliance occurs or continues.
10.5 **Each Violation a Separate Violation.** Each violation of any provision of this Franchise shall be considered a separate violation for which separate liquidated damages can be

imposed.

10.6 **Maximum 120 Days.** Any liquidated damages for any given violation shall be imposed upon Grantee for a maximum of one hundred twenty (120) Days. If after that amount of time Grantee has not cured or commenced to cure the alleged breach to the satisfaction of the City, the City may pursue all other remedies.

10.7 **Withdrawal of Funds to Pay Taxes.** If Grantee fails to pay to the City any taxes due and unpaid; or fails to repay to the City, any damages, costs or expenses which the City shall be compelled to pay by reason of any act or default of the Grantee in connection with this Franchise; or fails, after thirty (30) Days notice of such failure by the City to comply with any provision of the Franchise which the City reasonably determines can be remedied by an expenditure of the security, the City may then withdraw such funds from the security fund. Payments are not Franchise Fees as defined in Section 16 of this Franchise.

10.8 **Procedure for Draw on Security Fund.** Whenever the City finds that Grantee has violated one (1) or more terms, conditions or provisions of this Franchise, a written notice shall be given to Grantee. The written notice shall describe in reasonable detail the alleged violation so as to afford Grantee an opportunity to remedy or dispute the violation. Grantee shall have thirty (30) Days subsequent to receipt of the notice in which to correct the violation before the City may require Grantee to make payment of damages, and further to enforce payment of damages through the security fund. Grantee may, within ten (10) Days of receipt of notice, notify the City that there is a dispute as to whether a violation or failure has, in fact, occurred. Such notice by Grantee shall specify with particularity the matters disputed by Grantee and shall stay the running of the above-described time.

(a) City shall hear Grantee’s dispute at a regularly scheduled or specially scheduled Council meeting within sixty (60) days of receipt of written notice of a dispute. Grantee shall have the right to speak and introduce evidence. The City shall determine if Grantee has committed a violation and shall make written findings of fact relative to its determination.

(b) If after hearing the dispute, the claim is upheld by the City, then the Grantee shall pay such liquidated damages as may be due and the City may begin to draw from the security fund.

10.9 **Time for Correction of Violation.** The time for Grantee to correct any alleged violation may be extended by the City if the necessary action to collect the alleged violation is of such a nature or character as to require more than thirty (30) Days within which to perform provided Grantee commences corrective action within fifteen (15) Days and thereafter uses reasonable diligence, as determined by the City, to correct the violation.

10.10 **Grantee’s Right to Pay Prior to Security Fund Draw.** Grantee shall have the opportunity to make prompt payment of any assessed liquidated damages and if Grantee fails to
promptly remit payment to the City, the City may resort to a draw from the security fund in accordance with the terms of this Section 10 of the Franchise.

10.11 **Failure to so Replenish Security Fund.** If the letter of credit is set to expire prior to expiration of the Franchise, it shall be renewed or replaced prior to its expiration. If the City draws on the letter of credit, the Grantee shall replace or replenish such letter of credit to its full amount within ten (10) Days. If the security fund is not so replaced, City may draw the whole amount thereof and hold the proceeds, without interest, and use the proceeds to pay costs incurred by City in performing and paying for any or all of the obligations, duties and responsibilities of Grantee under this Franchise that are not performed or paid for by Grantee pursuant hereto, including attorneys’ fees incurred by the City in so performing and paying. The failure to so replace any security fund may also, at the option of City, be deemed a default by Grantee under this Franchise. The drawing on the security fund by City, and use of the money so obtained for payment or performance of the obligations, duties and responsibilities of Grantee which are in default, shall not be a waiver or release of such default.

10.12 **Collection of Funds Not Exclusive Remedy.** The collection by City of any damages or monies from the security fund shall not affect any other right or remedy available to City, nor shall any act, or failure to act, by City pursuant to the security fund, be deemed a waiver of any right of City pursuant to this Franchise or otherwise. Notwithstanding this section, however, should the City elect to impose liquidated damages, that remedy shall remain the City’s exclusive remedy for the one hundred twenty (120) Day period set forth in Section 10.6.

**SECTION 11 DEFAULT**

11.1 **Basis for Default.** City shall give written notice of default to Grantee if City, in its sole discretion, determines that Grantee has:

(a) Violated any material provision of this Franchise or the acceptance hereto or any rule, order, regulation or determination of the City, state or federal government, not in conflict with this Franchise;

(b) Attempted to evade any provision of this Franchise or the acceptance hereof;

(c) Practiced any fraud or deceit upon City or Subscribers;

(d) Made a material misrepresentation of fact in the application for or negotiation of this Franchise; or

11.2 **Default Procedure.** If Grantee fails to cure such default within thirty (30) Days after the giving of such notice (or if such default is of such a character as to require more than thirty (30) Days within which to cure the same, and Grantee fails to commence to cure the same within said thirty (30) Day period and thereafter fails to use reasonable diligence, in City’s sole opinion, to cure such default as soon as possible), then, and in any event, such default shall be a substantial breach and City may elect to terminate the Franchise. The City may place the issue of revocation and termination of this Franchise before the governing body of City at a regular meeting. If City decides there is cause or reason to terminate, the following procedure shall be followed:
(a) City shall provide Grantee with a written notice of the reason or cause for proposed termination and shall allow Grantee a minimum of thirty (30) Days subsequent to receipt of the notice in which to correct the default.

(b) Grantee shall be provided with an opportunity to be heard at a public hearing prior to any decision to terminate this Franchise.

(c) If, after notice is given and an opportunity to cure, at Grantee’s option, a public hearing is held, and the City determines there was a violation, breach, failure, refusal or neglect, the City may declare by resolution the Franchise revoked and of no further force and effect unless there is compliance within such period as the City may fix, such period may not be less than thirty (30) Days provided no opportunity for compliance need be granted for fraud or misrepresentation.

11.3 **Mediation.** If the Grantee and City are unable to resolve a dispute through informal negotiations during the period of thirty (30) days following the submission of the claim giving rise to the dispute by one (1) party to the other, then unless that claim has been waived as provided in the Franchise, such claim may be subject to mediation if jointly agreed upon by both parties. Mutually agreed upon Mediation shall stay other enforcement remedies of the parties for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of filing, unless stayed for a longer period by agreement of the Grantee and City. The Grantee and City shall each pay one-half of the mediator’s fee and any filing fees. The mediation shall be held in the City unless another location is mutually agreed upon. Agreements reached in mediation shall be enforceable as a settlement agreement in any court having jurisdiction thereof. Nothing herein shall serve to modify or on any way delay the franchise enforcement process set forth in Section 10 of this Franchise.

11.4 **Failure to Enforce.** Grantee shall not be relieved of any of its obligations to comply promptly with any provision of the Franchise by reason of any failure of the City to enforce prompt compliance, and City’s failure to enforce shall not constitute a waiver of rights or acquiescence in Grantee’s conduct.

11.5 **Compliance with the Laws.**

(a) If any federal or state law or regulation shall require or permit City or Grantee to perform any service or act or shall prohibit City or Grantee from performing any service or act which may be in conflict with the terms of this Franchise, then as soon as possible following knowledge thereof, either party shall notify the other of the point in conflict believed to exist between such law or regulation. Grantee and City shall conform to state laws and rules regarding cable communications not later than one (1) year after they become effective, unless otherwise stated, and shall conform to federal laws and regulations regarding cable as they become effective.

(b) If any term, condition or provision of this Franchise or the application thereof to any Person or circumstance shall, to any extent, be held to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder hereof and the application of such term, condition or provision to Persons or circumstances other than those as to whom it shall be held invalid or unenforceable shall not be affected thereby, and this Franchise and all the terms,
provisions and conditions hereof shall, in all other respects, continue to be effective and complied with provided the loss of the invalid or unenforceable clause does not substantially alter the agreement between the parties. In the event such law, rule or regulation is subsequently repealed, rescinded, amended or otherwise changed so that the provision which had been held invalid or modified is no longer in conflict with the law, rules and regulations then in effect, said provision shall thereupon return to full force and effect and shall thereafter be binding on Grantee and City.

SECTION 12 FORECLOSURE AND RECEIVERSHIP

12.1 Foreclosure. Upon the foreclosure or other judicial sale of the Cable System, Grantee shall notify the City of such fact and such notification shall be treated as a notification that a change in control of Grantee has taken place, and the provisions of this Franchise governing the consent to transfer or change in ownership shall apply without regard to how such transfer or change in ownership occurred.

12.2 Receivership. The City shall have the right to cancel this Franchise subject to any applicable provisions of state law, including the Bankruptcy Act, one hundred twenty (120) Days after the appointment of a receiver or trustee to take over and conduct the business of Grantee, whether in receivership, reorganization, bankruptcy or other action or proceeding, unless such receivership or trusteeship shall have been vacated prior to the expiration of said one hundred twenty (120) Days, or unless:

(a) Within one hundred twenty (120) Days after his election or appointment, such receiver or trustee shall have fully complied with all the provisions of this Franchise and remedied all defaults thereunder; and,

(b) Such receiver or trustee, within said one hundred twenty (120) Days, shall have executed an agreement, duly approved by the Court having jurisdiction in the premises, whereby such receiver or trustee assumes and agrees to be bound by each and every provision of this Franchise.

SECTION 13 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

13.1 Quarterly Reports. Within forty-five (45) calendar days after the end of each calendar quarter, Grantee shall submit to the City along with its Franchise Fee payment a report showing the basis for computation of such fees prepared by an officer of Grantee showing the basis for the computation of the Franchise Fees paid during that period in a form and substance substantially equivalent to Exhibit C attached hereto. This report shall separately indicate revenues received by Grantee within the City including, but not limited to such items as listed in the definition of “Gross Revenues” at Section 1 of this Franchise.

13.2 Monitoring and Compliance Reports. Upon request, but no more than once a year, Grantee shall provide a written report of any and all FCC technical performance tests for the residential network required in FCC Rules and Regulations as now or hereinafter constituted.

13.3 Reports. Upon request of the City and no event later than thirty (30) Days from the date of receipt of such request, Grantee shall, free of charge, prepare and furnish to the City, at
the times and in the form prescribed, such additional reports with respect to its operation, affairs, transactions, or property, as may be reasonably necessary to ensure compliance with the terms of this Franchise. Grantee and City may in good faith agree upon taking into consideration Grantee’s need for the continuing confidentiality as prescribed herein. Neither City nor Grantee shall unreasonably demand or withhold information requested pursuant with the terms of this Franchise.

13.4 Communications with Regulatory Agencies.

(a) Upon written request, Grantee shall submit to City copies of any pleading, applications, notifications, communications and documents of any kind, submitted by Grantee or its Affiliates to any federal, State or local courts, regulatory agencies and other government bodies if such documents directly relate to the operations of Grantee’s Cable System within the Franchise Area. Grantee shall submit such documents to City no later than thirty (30) Days after receipt of City's request. Grantee shall not claim confidential, privileged or proprietary rights to such documents unless under federal, State, or local law such documents have been determined to be confidential by a court of competent jurisdiction, or a federal or State agency. With respect to all other reports, documents and notifications provided to any federal, State or local regulatory agency as a routine matter in the due course of operating Grantee’s Cable System within the Franchise Area, Grantee shall make such documents available to City upon City's written request.

(b) In addition, Grantee and its Affiliates shall within ten (10) Days of any communication to or from any judicial or regulatory agency regarding any alleged or actual violation of this Franchise, City regulation or other requirement relating to the System, use its best efforts to provide the City a copy of the communication, whether specifically requested by the City to do so or not.

SECTION 14 CUSTOMER SERVICE PROVISIONS

14.1 Customer Service Standards. The Grantee shall at all times comply with FCC customer service standards. In addition, the Grantee shall at all times satisfy all additional or stricter customer service requirements as set forth in this Franchise, or as may be set forth in any ordinance or regulation lawfully enacted by the City.

14.2 Response to Customers and Cooperation with City. Grantee shall promptly respond to all requests for service, repair, installation and information from Subscribers. Grantee acknowledges the City’s interest in the prompt resolution of all cable complaints and shall work in close cooperation with the City to resolve complaints.

14.3 Definition of “Complaint.” For the purposes of Section 14, with the exception of Subsection 14.5, a “complaint” shall mean any communication to Grantee or to the City by a Subscriber or a Person who has requested Cable Service; a Person expressing dissatisfaction with any service, performance, or lack thereof, by Grantee under the obligations of this Franchise.

14.4 Customer Service Agreement and Written Information. Grantee shall provide to Subscribers a comprehensive service agreement and information in writing for use in establishing Subscriber service. Written information shall, at a minimum, contain the following information:
(a) Services to be provided and rates for such services.

(b) Billing procedures.

(c) Service termination procedure.

(d) Change in service notifications.

(e) Liability specifications.

(f) Converter/Subscriber terminal equipment policy.

(g) Breach of Franchise specification.

(h) How complaints are handled including Grantee’s procedure for investigation and resolution of Subscriber complaints.

14.5 Reporting Complaints. The requirements of this Section 14.4 shall be subject to federal law regarding Subscriber privacy. Grantee shall maintain all Subscriber data available for City inspection. Subscriber data shall include the date, name, address, telephone number of Subscriber complaints as well as the subject of the complaint, date and type of action taken to resolve the complaint, any additional action taken by Grantee or the Subscriber. The data shall be maintained in a way that allows for simplified access of the data by the City.

Subject to federal law and upon reasonable request by the City, Grantee shall, within a reasonable amount of time, provide City with such Subscriber data for its review.

14.6 Customer Service Standards. The City hereby adopts the customer service standards set forth in Part 76, §76.309 of the FCC’s rules and regulations, as amended. Grantee shall, upon request, which request shall include the reason for the request (such as complaints received or other reasonable evidence of concern), provide City with information which shall describe in detail Grantee’s compliance with each and every term and provision of this Section 14.5. Grantee shall comply in all respects with the customer service requirements established by the FCC and those set forth herein. The City reserves the right to enact additional consumer protection laws or requirements to the extent such requirements are not inconsistent with, and preempted by, the FCC’s customer service standards.

14.7 Local Office. Grantee shall maintain a convenient local customer service and bill payment location for matters such as receiving Subscriber payments, handling billing questions, equipment replacement and customer service information. Grantee shall comply with the standards and requirements for customer service set forth below during the term of this Franchise.

14.8 Cable System office hours and telephone availability.

(a) Grantee will maintain a local, toll-free or collect call telephone access line which will be available to its Subscribers twenty-four (24) hours a Day, seven (7) days a week.
(i) Trained Grantee representatives will be available to respond to customer telephone inquiries during Normal Business Hours.

(ii) 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 Grantee representative on the next business Day.

(b) 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 (90%) of the time under Normal Operating Conditions, measured on a quarterly basis.

(c) Grantee shall 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.

(d) Under Normal Operating Conditions, the customer will receive a busy signal less than three percent (3%) of the time. Under Normal Operating Conditions, the percentage of calls abandoned or dropped shall not exceed three percent (3%).

(e) Customer service center and bill payment locations will be open at least during Normal Business Hours and will be conveniently located.

14.9 Installations, Outages and Service Calls. Under Normal Operating Conditions, each of the following standards will be met no less than ninety-five percent (95%) of the time measured on a quarterly basis:

(a) 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 one hundred twenty-five (125) feet from the existing distribution system as more specifically set forth in Section 6.8 (b).

(b) Excluding conditions beyond the control of Grantee, Grantee will begin working on "Service Interruptions" promptly and in no event later than twenty-four (24) hours after the interruption becomes known. Grantee must begin actions to correct other Service problems the next business Day after notification of the Service problem.

(c) The "appointment window" alternatives for Installations, Service calls, and other Installation activities will be either a specific time or, at maximum, a four (4) hour time block during Normal Business Hours. (Grantee may schedule Service calls and other Installation activities outside of Normal Business Hours for the express convenience of the customer.)

(d) Grantee may not cancel an appointment with a customer after the close of business on the business Day prior to the scheduled appointment.
(e) If Grantee’s representative is running late for an appointment with a customer and will not be able to keep the appointment as scheduled, the customer will be contacted. The appointment will be rescheduled, as necessary, at a time which is convenient for the customer.

14.10 Communications between Grantee and Subscribers.

(a) Refunds. Refund checks will be issued promptly, but no later than either:

(i) The customer’s next billing cycle following resolution of the request or thirty (30) days, whichever is earlier, or

(ii) The return of the equipment supplied by Grantee if Cable Service is terminated.

(b) Credits. Credits for Cable Service will be issued no later than the customer's next billing cycle following the determination that a credit is warranted.

14.11 Billing:

(a) Consistent with 47 C.F.R. § 76.1619, bills will be clear, concise and understandable. Bills must be fully itemized, with itemizations including, but not limited to, Basic Cable Service and premium Cable 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, Grantee must respond to a written complaint from a Subscriber within thirty (30) days.

14.12 Subscriber Information. Grantee will 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:

(a) Products and Services offered;

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

(c) Installation and Service maintenance policies;

(d) Instructions on how to use the Cable Service;

(e) Channel positions of programming carried on the System; and

(f) Billing and complaint procedures, including the address and telephone number of the City's cable office.

Subscribers shall be advised of the procedures for resolution of complaints about the quality of the television signal delivered by Grantee, including the address of the responsible
officer of the City. Grantee shall notify Subscribers thirty (30) days in advance of any significant changes in the information required by this Section 14.12.

14.13 Notice or Rate Programming Change. In addition to the requirement of this Section 14.13 Grantee shall give thirty (30) days written notice to both Subscribers and the City before implementing any rate or Service change. Such notice shall state the precise amount of any rate change and briefly explain in readily understandable fashion the cause of the rate change (e.g., inflation, change in external costs or the addition/deletion of Channels). When the change involves the addition or deletion of Channels, each Channel added or deleted must be separately identified. For purposes of the carriage of digital broadcast signals, Grantee need only identify for Subscribers, the television signal added and not whether that signal may be multiplexed during certain dayparts.

14.14 Subscriber Contracts. Grantee shall, upon written request, provide the City with any standard form residential Subscriber contract utilized by Grantee. If no such written contract exists, Grantee shall file with the City a document completely and concisely stating the length and terms of the Subscriber contract offered to customers.

14.15 Refund Policy. If a Subscriber’s Cable Service is interrupted or discontinued, without cause, for twenty-four (24) or more consecutive hours, Grantee shall, upon request by the Subscriber, credit such Subscriber pro rata for such interruption. For this purpose, every month will be assumed to have thirty (30) Days.

14.16 Late Fees. Grantee shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws with respect to any assessment, charge, cost, fee or sum, however characterized, that Grantee imposes upon a Subscriber for late payment of a bill. The City reserves the right to enforce Grantee’s compliance with all Applicable Laws to the maximum extent legally permissible.

14.17 Disputes. All Subscribers and members of the general public may direct complaints, regarding Grantee’s Service or performance to the chief administrative officer of the City or the chief administrative officer’s designee, which may be a board or Commission of the City. Grantee must make its best efforts to contact the Subscriber who is the subject of the dispute within two (2) business Days of receiving notice of the complaint from the City. The Grantee shall establish and maintain a company “escalated complaint” contact (telephone number and email address) to whom the City may forward escalated complaints. Grantee will make its best efforts to notify City of resolution to an “escalated complaint.”

14.18 Customer Bills. Customer bills shall be designed in such a way as to present the information contained therein clearly and comprehensibly to Customers, and in a way that (A) is not misleading and (B) does not omit material information. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Section 14.10, above, Grantee may, in its sole discretion, consolidate costs on Customer bills as may otherwise be permitted by Section 622(c) of the Cable Act (47 U.S.C. §542(c)).

14.19 Failure to Resolve Complaints. Grantee shall resolve a complaint within thirty (30) days in a manner deemed reasonable by the City under the terms of the Franchise.
14.20 **Maintain a Complaint Phone Line.** Grantee shall maintain a local or toll-free telephone Subscriber complaint line, available to its Subscribers twenty-four (24) hours per Day, seven (7) days a week.

14.21 **Notification of Complaint Procedure.** Grantee shall have printed clearly and prominently on each Subscriber bill and in the customer service agreement provided for in Section 14.3, the twenty-four (24) hour Grantee phone number for Subscriber complaints. Additionally, Grantee shall provide information to customers concerning the procedures to follow when they are unsatisfied with measures taken by Grantee to remedy their complaint. This information will include the phone number of the City office or Person designated to handle complaints.

14.22 **Subscriber Privacy.**

(a) To the extent required by Minn. Stat. §238.084 Subd. 1(s) Grantee shall comply with the following: No signals including signals of a Class IV Channel may be transmitted from a Subscriber terminal for purposes of monitoring individual viewing patterns or practices without the express written permission of the Subscriber. The request for permission must be contained in a separate document with a prominent statement that the Subscriber is authorizing the permission in full knowledge of its provisions. Such written permission shall be for a limited period of time not to exceed one (1) year which may be renewed at the option of the Subscriber. No penalty shall be invoked for a Subscriber’s failure to provide or renew such permission. The permission shall be revocable at any time by the Subscriber without penalty of any kind whatsoever.

(b) No information or data obtained by monitoring transmission of a signal from a Subscriber terminal, including but not limited to lists of the names and addresses of Subscribers or any lists that identify the viewing habits of Subscribers shall be sold or otherwise made available to any party other than to Grantee or its agents for Grantee’s business use, and also to the Subscriber subject of that information, unless Grantee has received specific written permission from the Subscriber to make such data available. The request for permission must be contained in a separate document with a prominent statement that the Subscriber is authorizing the permission in full knowledge of its provisions. Such written permission shall be for a limited period of time not to exceed one (1) year which may be renewed at the option of the Subscriber. No penalty shall be invoked for a Subscriber’s failure to provide or renew such permission. The permission shall be revocable at any time by the Subscriber without penalty of any kind whatsoever.

(c) Written permission from the Subscriber shall not be required for the conducting of system wide or individually addressed electronic sweeps for the purpose of verifying System integrity or monitoring for the purpose of billing. Confidentiality of such information shall be subject to the provision set forth in subparagraph (b) of this section.

14.23 **Grantee Identification.** Grantee shall provide all customer service technicians and all other Grantee employees entering private property with appropriate picture identification so that Grantee employees may be easily identified by the property owners and Subscribers.

**SECTION 15 SUBSCRIBER PRACTICES**
15.1 **Subscriber Rates.** There shall be no charge for disconnection of any installation or outlet. If any Subscriber fails to pay a properly due monthly Subscriber fee, or any other properly due fee or charge, Grantee may disconnect the Subscriber’s service outlet, provided, however, that such disconnection shall not be effected until after the later of: (i) forty-five (45) Days after the original due date of said delinquent fee or charge; or (ii) ten (10) Days after delivery to Subscriber of written notice of the intent to disconnect. If a Subscriber pays before expiration of the later of (i) or (ii), Grantee shall not disconnect. After disconnection, upon payment in full of the delinquent fee or charge and the payment of a reconnection charge, Grantee shall promptly reinstate the Subscriber’s Cable Service.

15.2 **Refunds to Subscribers shall be made or determined in the following manner:**

(a) If Grantee fails, upon request by a Subscriber, to provide any service then being offered, Grantee shall promptly refund all deposits or advance charges paid for the service in question by said Subscriber. This provision does not alter Grantee’s responsibility to Subscribers under any separate contractual agreement or relieve Grantee of any other liability.

(b) If any Subscriber terminates any monthly service because of failure of Grantee to render the service in accordance with this Franchise, Grantee shall refund to such Subscriber the proportionate share of the charges paid by the Subscriber for the services not received. This provision does not relieve Grantee of liability established in other provisions of this Franchise.

(c) If any Subscriber terminates any monthly service prior to the end of a prepaid period, a proportionate amount of any prepaid Subscriber service fee, using the number of days as a basis, shall be refunded to the Subscriber by Grantee.

**SECTION 16 COMPENSATION AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

16.1 **Franchise Fees.** During the term of the Franchise, Grantee shall pay to the City a Franchise Fee of five percent (5%) of Gross Revenues. If any such law, regulation or valid rule alters the five percent (5%) Franchise Fee ceiling established by the Cable Act, then the City shall have the authority to (but shall not be required to) increase the Franchise Fee accordingly, provided such increase is for purposes not inconsistent with Applicable Law. In the event Grantee bundles or combines Cable Services (which are subject to the Franchise Fee) with non-Cable Services (which are not subject to the Franchise Fee) so that Subscribers pay a single fee for more than one (1) class of service resulting in a discount on Cable Services, Grantee shall, for the purpose of calculation of the Franchise Fee, allocate to Cable Service revenue no less than a pro rata share of the revenue received for the bundled or combined services. The pro rata share shall be computed on the basis of the published charge for each service in the bundled or combined classes of services when purchased separately.

(a) Franchise Fees shall be paid quarterly not later than forty-five (45) Days following the end of a given quarter. In accordance with Section 16 of this Franchise, Grantee shall file with the City a Franchise Fee payment worksheet, attached as Exhibit C, signed by an authorized representative of Grantee, which identifies Gross Revenues earned.
by Grantee during the period for which payment is made. No acceptance of any payment shall be construed as an accord that the amount paid is in fact, the correct amount, nor shall such acceptance of payment be construed as a release of any claim which the City may have for further or additional sums payable under the provisions of this section.

(b) Neither current nor previously paid Franchise Fees shall be subtracted from the Gross Revenue amount upon which Franchise Fees are calculated and due for any period, unless otherwise required by Applicable Law.

(c) Any Franchise Fees owing pursuant to this Franchise which remain unpaid more than forty-five (45) Days after the dates specified herein shall be delinquent and shall thereafter accrue interest at twelve percent (12%) per annum or two percent (2%) above prime lending rate as quoted by the Wall Street Journal, whichever is greater.

(d) No term or condition in this Franchise shall in any way modify or affect Grantee’s obligation to pay in full the Franchise Fee percentage listed in this Franchise. Additionally, the PEG fee pursuant to Section 7, as well as any charges incidental to the awarding or enforcing of this Franchise, including payments for bonds, security funds, letters of credit, insurance, indemnification, penalties or liquidated damage shall not be offset against Franchise Fees. Furthermore, the City and Grantee agree that any utility tax, business and occupation tax or similar local tax of general applicability shall be in addition to any Franchise Fees required herein and there shall be no offset against Franchise Fees subject to Applicable Laws. With the exception of the foregoing, Comcast reserves all rights to offset cash or non-cash payments from Franchise Fees, consistent with Applicable Laws.

(e) Furthermore, if the Grantee discovers it has materially overpaid or underpaid the City, it will provide the City a written explanation of its findings prior to making any adjustments to future franchise fee payments to correct for overpayment or underpayment. The City reserves the right to contest Grantee’s claimed overpayment or underpayment including pursuant to Section 11 herein. This Section shall not apply to Grantee’s regular process for truing up third party Gross Revenues derived in the ordinary course of business, such as ad sales revenues.

(f) Should Grantee elect to offset against the Franchise Fee the value of Franchise commitments or initiatives such as Complimentary Service as may be permitted by Applicable Laws including any Order resulting from the FCC’s 621 proceeding, MB Docket No. 05-311, Grantee shall provide the City ninety (90) days’ advance written notice. Discounted leased fiber or managed services provided under a separate contract with Comcast Business are not a non-cash commitment or initiative, and shall not be offset.

(g) Any decision or election by Grantee not to exercise any right it has under Applicable Laws, including any Order by the FCC in the 621 proceeding, to offset cash or non-cash payments from Franchise Fees under or pursuant to this Franchise, shall not constitute a waiver of any such rights Grantee may have under applicable law.
16.2 Auditing and Financial Records. Throughout the term of this Franchise, the Grantee agrees that the City, upon reasonable prior written notice of twenty (20) Days to the Grantee, may review such of the Grantee’s books and records regarding the operation of the Cable System and the provision of Cable Service in the Franchise Area which are reasonably necessary to monitor and enforce Grantee’s compliance with the provisions of this Franchise. Grantee shall provide such requested information as soon as possible and in no event more than thirty (30) Days unless Grantee explains that it is not feasible to meet this timeline and provides a written explanation for the delay and an estimated reasonable date for when such information will be provided. All such documents pertaining to financial matters that may be the subject of an inspection by the City shall be retained by the Grantee for a minimum period of seven (7) years, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 541.05. The Grantee shall not deny the City access to any of the Grantee’s records on the basis that the Grantee’s records are under the control of any parent corporation, Affiliated entity or a third party. The City may request in writing copies of any such records or books that are reasonably necessary, and the Grantee shall provide such copies within thirty (30) Days of the receipt of such request. One (1) copy of all reports and records required under this or any other section shall be furnished to the City at the sole expense of the Grantee. If the requested books and records are too voluminous, or for security reasons cannot be copied or removed, then the Grantee may request, in writing within ten (10) Days of receipt of such request, that the City inspect them at the Grantee’s local offices or at one of Grantee’s offices more convenient to City or its duly authorized agent. If any books or records of the Grantee are not kept in such office and not made available in copies to the City upon written request as set forth above, and if the City determines that an examination of such records is necessary for the enforcement of this Franchise, then all reasonable travel expenses incurred in making such examination shall be paid by the Grantee.

16.3 Review of Record Keeping Methodology. Upon request, Grantee agrees to meet with a representative of the City to review its methodology of record-keeping, financial reporting, computing Franchise Fee obligations, and other procedures the understanding of which the City deems necessary for understanding the meaning of reports and records.

16.4 Audit of Records. The City or its authorized agent may at any time and at the City’s own expense conduct an independent audit of the revenues of Grantee in order to verify the accuracy of Franchise Fees paid to the City. Grantee and each parent company of Grantee shall cooperate fully in the conduct of such audit. In the event it is determined through such audit that Grantee has underpaid Franchise Fees in an amount of five percent (5%) or more than was due the City, then Grantee shall reimburse the City for the entire cost of the audit within thirty (30) days of the completion and acceptance of the audit by the City.

16.5 Records to be reviewed. The City agrees to request access to only those books and records, in exercising its rights under this section, which it deems reasonably necessary for the enforcement and administration of the Franchise.

16.6 Indemnification by Grantee. Grantee shall, at its sole expense, fully indemnify, defend and hold harmless the City, and in their capacity as such, the officers and employees thereof, from and against any and all claims, suits, actions, liability and judgments for damage or otherwise except those arising wholly from negligence on the part of the City or its employees; for actual or alleged injury to persons or property, including loss of use of property due to an
occurrence, whether or not such property is physically damaged or destroyed, in any way arising 
out of or through or alleged to arise out of or through the acts or omissions of Grantee or its officers, 
agents, employees, or contractors or to which Grantee’s or its officers, agents, employees or 
contractors acts or omissions in any way contribute, and whether or not such acts or omissions 
were authorized or contemplated by this Franchise or Applicable Law; arising out of or alleged to 
arise out of any claim for damages for Grantee’s invasion of the right of privacy, defamation of 
any Person, firm or corporation, or the violation of infringement of any copyright, trademark, trade 
name, service mark or patent, or of any other right of any Person, firm or corporation; arising out 
of or alleged to arise out of Grantee’s failure to comply with the provisions of any Applicable Law. 
Nothing herein shall be deemed to prevent the City, its officers, or its employees from participating 
in the defense of any litigation by their own counsel at such parties’ expense. Such participation 
shall not under any circumstances relieve Grantee from its duty of defense against liability or of 
paying any judgment entered against the City, its officers, or its employees.

16.7 **Grantee Insurance.** Upon the Effective Date, Grantee shall, at its sole expense take 
out and maintain during the term of this Franchise public liability insurance with a company 
licensed to do business in the state of Minnesota with a rating by A.M. Best & Co. of not less than 
“A-” that shall protect the Grantee, City and its officials, officers, directors, employees and agents 
from claims which may arise from operations under this Franchise, whether such operations be by 
the Grantee, its officials, officers, directors, employees and agents or any subcontractors of 
Grantee. This liability insurance shall include, but shall not be limited to, protection against claims 
arising from bodily and personal injury and damage to property, resulting from Grantee’s vehicles, 
products and operations. The amount of insurance for single limit coverage applying to bodily 
and personal injury and property damage shall not be less than Three Million Dollars ($3,000,000). 
The liability policy shall include:

(a) The policy shall provide coverage on an “occurrence” basis.

(b) The policy shall cover personal injury as well as bodily injury.

(c) The policy shall cover blanket contractual liability subject to the standard 
universal exclusions of contractual liability included in the carrier’s standard endorsement 
as to bodily injuries, personal injuries and property damage.

(d) Broad form property damage liability shall be afforded.

(e) City shall be named as an additional insured on the policy.

(f) An endorsement shall be provided which states that the coverage is primary 
insurance with respect to claims arising from Grantee’s operations under this Franchise 
and that no other insurance maintained by the City will be called upon to contribute to a 
loss under this coverage.

(g) Standard form of cross-liability shall be afforded.

(h) An endorsement stating that the policy shall not be canceled without thirty 
(30) Days notice of such cancellation given to City.
(i) City reserves the right to adjust the insurance limit coverage requirements of this Franchise no more than once every three (3) years. Any such adjustment by City will be no greater than the increase in the State of Minnesota Consumer Price Index (all consumers) for such three (3) year period.

(j) Upon the Effective Date, Grantee shall submit to City a certificate documenting the required insurance, as well as any necessary properly executed endorsements. The certificate and documents evidencing insurance shall be in a form acceptable to City and shall provide satisfactory evidence that Grantee has complied with all insurance requirements. Renewal certificates shall be provided to City prior to the expiration date of any of the required policies. City will not be obligated, however, to review such endorsements or certificates or other evidence of insurance, or to advise Grantee of any deficiencies in such documents and receipt thereof shall not relieve Grantee from, nor be deemed a waiver of, City’s right to enforce the terms of Grantee’s obligations hereunder. City reserves the right to examine any policy provided for under this paragraph or to require further documentation reasonably necessary to form an opinion regarding the adequacy of Grantee’s insurance coverage.

SECTION 17 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

17.1 Posting and Publication. Grantee shall assume the cost of posting and publication of this Franchise as such posting and publication is required by law and such is payable upon Grantee’s filing of acceptance of this Franchise.

17.2 Guarantee of Performance. Grantee agrees that it enters into this Franchise voluntarily in order to secure and in consideration of the grant from the City of a ten (10) year Franchise. Performance pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Franchise is guaranteed by Grantee.

17.3 Entire Agreement. This Franchise contains the entire agreement between the parties, supersedes all prior agreements or proposals except as specifically set forth herein, and cannot be changed orally but only by an instrument in writing executed by the parties. This Franchise is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 238 and the City Code and is intended to comply with all requirements set forth therein.

17.4 Consent. Wherever the consent or approval of either Grantee or the City is specifically required in this agreement, such consent or approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

17.5 Prior Franchise Terminated. The cable television franchise originally granted by Ordinance 99-11-975 is hereby terminated.

17.6 Franchise Acceptance. No later than 45 Days following City Council approval of this Franchise, Grantee shall execute and return to the City three (3) original franchise agreements. The executed agreements shall be returned to the City accompanied by performance bonds, security funds, and evidence of insurance, all as provided in this Franchise. In the event Grantee fails to accept this Franchise, or fails to provide the required documents, this Franchise shall be
null and void. The Grantee agrees that despite the fact that its written acceptance may occur after the Effective Date, the obligations of this Franchise shall become effective on the Effective Date.

17.7 Amendment of Franchise. Grantee and City may agree, from time to time, to amend this Franchise. Such written amendments may be made to address technology changes or advances subsequent to a review session pursuant to Section 2.6 or at any other time if City and Grantee agree that such an amendment will be in the public interest or if such an amendment is required due to changes in federal, state or local laws; provided, however, nothing herein shall restrict City’s exercise of its police powers.

17.8 Notice. Any notification that requires a response or action from a party to this Franchise, within a specific time-frame or would trigger a timeline that would affect one or both parties’ rights under this franchise, shall be made in writing and shall be sufficiently given and served upon the other party by hand delivery, first class mail, registered or certified, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, or by reputable overnight courier service and addressed as follows:

To the City:       City of North St. Paul
                  Attention: City Manager

To the Grantee:   Comcast Regional Vice President of Operations
                  10 River Park Place
                  St. Paul, MN 55107

Recognizing the widespread usage and acceptance of electronic forms of communication, emails and faxes will be acceptable as formal notification related to the conduct of general business amongst the parties to this contract, including but not limited to programming and price adjustment communications. Such communication should be addressed and directed to the Person of record as specified above.

17.9 Force Majeure. In the event that either party is prevented or delayed in the performance of any of its obligations, under this Franchise by reason of acts of God, floods, fire, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, or other unavoidable casualties, insurrection, war, riot, vandalism, strikes, delays in receiving permits where it is not the fault of Grantee, public easements, sabotage, acts or omissions of the other party, or any other similar event beyond the reasonable control of that party, it shall have a reasonable time under the circumstances to perform such obligation under this Franchise, or to procure a substitute for such obligation to the reasonable satisfaction of the other party.

17.10 Work of Contractors and Subcontractors. Work by contractors and subcontractors is subject to the same restrictions, limitations and conditions as if the work were performed by Grantee. Grantee shall be responsible for all work performed by its contractors and subcontractors, and others performing work on its behalf as if the work were performed by it and shall ensure that all such work is performed in compliance with this Franchise, the City Code and other Applicable Law, and shall be jointly and severally liable for all damages and correcting all
damage caused by them. It is Grantee’s responsibility to ensure that contractors, subcontractors or other Persons performing work on Grantee’s behalf are familiar with the requirements of this Franchise, the City Code and other Applicable Laws governing the work performed by them.

17.11 Abandonment of System. Grantee may not abandon the System or any portion thereof during the Term of this Franchise, and thereafter without having first given three (3) months written notice to City and conforming to the City Code, as well as the state right-of-way rules, Minn. Rules, Chapter 7819. To the extent required by Minn. Stat. § 238.084, Subd. 1 (w), Grantee shall compensate City for damages resulting from the abandonment.

17.12 Removal After Abandonment. In the event of Grantee’s abandonment of the System, City shall have the right to require Grantee to conform to Section 405 of the City Code, as well as the state right-of-way rules, Minn. Rules, Chapter 7819. If Grantee has failed to commence removal of System, or such part thereof as was designated by City, within thirty (30) days after written notice of City’s demand for removal consistent with Section 405 of the City Code and Minn. Rules, Ch. 7819, is given, or if Grantee has failed to complete such removal within twelve (12) months after written notice of City’s demand for removal is given City shall have the right to apply funds secured by the Performance Bond toward removal and/or declare all right, title, and interest to the System to be in City with all rights of ownership including, but not limited to, the right to operate the System or transfer the System to another for operation by it.

17.13 Governing Law. This Franchise shall be deemed to be executed in the State of Minnesota, and shall be governed in all respects, including validity, interpretation and effect, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of Minnesota, as applicable to contracts entered into and performed entirely within the State.

17.14 Nonenforcement by City. Grantee shall not be relieved of its obligation to comply with any of the provisions of this Franchise by reason of any failure of the City or to enforce prompt compliance.

17.15 Captions. The paragraph captions and headings in this Franchise are for convenience and reference purposes only and shall not affect in any way the meaning of interpretation of this Franchise.

17.16 Calculation of Time. Where the performance or doing of any act, duty, matter, payment or thing is required hereunder and the period of time or duration for the performance is prescribed and fixed herein, the time shall be computed so as to exclude the first and include the last Day of the prescribed or fixed period or duration of time. When the last Day of the period falls on Saturday, Sunday or a legal holiday, that Day shall be omitted from the computation and the next business Day shall be the last Day of the period.

17.17 Survival of Terms. Upon the termination or forfeiture of the Franchise, Grantee shall no longer have the right to occupy the Streets for the purpose of providing Cable Service. However, Grantee’s obligations to the City (other than the obligation to provide service to Subscribers) shall survive according to their terms.

17.18 Competitive Equity.
(a) The Grantee acknowledges and agrees that the City is authorized to grant one (1) or more additional franchises or other similar lawful authorization to utilize the Rights-of-Way in order to provide Cable Services or similar video programming service within the City, and that the City has previously issued an additional franchise to another provider to provide Cable Services in the City. If, after the Effective Date of this Franchise, the City grants such an additional franchise or other similar lawful authorization to utilize the Rights-of-Way for Cable Services or similar video programming services containing material terms and conditions that differ from Grantee’s material obligations under this Franchise, or declines to require such franchise or other similar lawful authorization where it has the legal authority to do so, then the Grantee may provide written notice to the City as provided in Section 17.18(b) below. “Material terms and conditions” include, but are not limited to: Franchise Fees and Gross Revenues; complementary services; insurance; System build-out requirements; security instruments; Public, Education and Government Access Channels and support; customer service standards; required reports and related record keeping; competitive equity (or its equivalent); audits; dispute resolution; remedies; and notice and opportunity to cure breaches.

(b) The Grantee’s notice shall address the following: (1) identify the specific terms or conditions in the competitive cable services franchise that are materially different from Grantee’s obligations under this Franchise; (2) identify the Franchise terms and conditions for which Grantee is seeking amendments; (3) provide text for any proposed Franchise amendments to the City, with a written explanation of why the proposed amendments are necessary and consistent.

(c) Upon receipt of Grantee’s written notice as provided in Section 17.18(b), the City shall ensure that material terms and conditions of both franchises are materially equivalent pursuant to the processes set forth herein. The City and Grantee agree that they will use best efforts in good faith to negotiate Grantee’s proposed Franchise modifications, and that such negotiation will proceed and conclude within a ninety (90) day time period, unless that time period is reduced or extended by mutual agreement of the parties. If the City and Grantee reach agreement on the Franchise modifications pursuant to such negotiations, then the City shall amend this Franchise to include the modifications.

(d) If the Franchise modification negotiations as provided for in Section 17.18(c) do not result in mutual agreement, Grantee may, at its option, elect to replace this Franchise by opting into the franchise or other similar lawful authorization that the City grants to another multi-channel video programming provider, with the understanding that Grantee may use its current system design and technology infrastructure to meet any requirements of the new franchise, so as to insure that the regulatory and financial burdens on each entity are equivalent. If Grantee so elects, the City shall immediately commence proceedings to replace this Franchise with the franchise issued to the other multi-channel video programming provider.

(e) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Section 17.18 (a) through (d) to the contrary, the City shall not be obligated to amend or replace this Franchise unless the new entrant makes Cable Services or similar video programming services available for purchase by Subscribers or customers under its franchise agreement with the City.
Passed and adopted this_____ day of _________2019.

ATTEST

CITY OF NORTH ST. PAUL,
MINNESOTA

By: ____________________________
Its: City Clerk

By: ____________________________
Its: Mayor

ACCEPTED: This Franchise is accepted, and we agree to be bound by its terms and conditions.

COMCAST OF MINNESOTA, INC.

Date: __________________________

By: ____________________________

Its: ____________________________

SWORN TO BEFORE ME this
___ day of __________, 2019.

_______________________________
NOTARY PUBLIC
Exhibit A
Complimentary Cable Service to Public Buildings

| TO BE DETERMINED |

Exhibit B
Fiber Return Lines

| TO BE DETERMINED |
Exhibit C

Franchise Fee Payment Worksheet

TRADE SECRET – CONFIDENTIAL

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Fee Factor: 5%