



City of Cambridge

1.

IN CITY COUNCIL

August 7, 1991

COUNCILLOR WALSH
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
MAYOR WOLF

WHEREAS: The attached correspondence from Michael McDermott of Berkshire Street, Cambridge conveys a compelling and convincing argument for the City's Office for Cable TV to work with Continental Cablevision to bring about the suggested adaptation and thereby assure presence of an audio supplement to information disseminated via the various Cable TV channels as referenced on page 2 of Mr. McDermott's letter; and

WHEREAS: It would be an appropriate time to give consideration to having this audio supplement delivered in diverse languages since, as Mr. McDermott notes, "Due to Cambridge's diverse culture we have in our city many people who do not know how to speak or read English. Perhaps, they could take advantage of this new audio idea."; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Director of Cable TV to contact the Manager of Continental Cablevision and undertake the preliminary steps necessary to implement this change in policy; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager report back to this City Council with data on this request by September 9, 1991; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk, upon receipt of the requested response, schedule a public hearing on this matter before the City Council's Subcommittee on Cable TV and Communications as soon as possible.

In City Council August 7, 1991.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

Joseph E. Connarton

ATTEST:-

Joseph E. Connarton
City Clerk

June 28, 1991

FOR: Cambridge City Council

FROM: Michael J. McDermott

SUBJECT: Equal access to Cambridge community information i.e. School department news, Council affairs, and Public events

I. INTRODUCTION

As I am a life long resident who has a strong interest in our city's politics I find it very educational as well as interesting to view the proceedings of the Cambridge City Council (CCC) nearly every Monday at 6:30 P.M. Because I am a blind citizen I greatly value the audio portion of the broadcast. Additionally, I also enjoy having announcements, events, and other communications pertaining to both the (CCC) and Cambridge School department (CSD) brought to my attention by the help of my parents who generously read such data to me. As well as a variety of public events. The supplementary information I am referring to can be found on the following cable television channels. 1. Community Events Bulletin Board (3,15,66) 2. School Department News (36) and 3. Cambridge Municipal T.V. (37). The communications appearing on these channels are not accessible through an audio format. It is my goal as a blind individual with a strong interest in city events to have these extra notices read aloud. So, not only the blind can benefit but, also those who are illiterate, elderly, visually impaired, and have other types of disabilities that limit a persons ability to gain access to important information stored in a visual format can too!

II. SUPPORT FOR PROPOSAL

When President George Bush signed the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) into law, he granted sweeping independence to millions of Americans who were previously denied equal rights under the Constitution. Now persons who suffer from all sorts of disabilities can enjoy equal rights under Federal mandate, as the ADA will reinforce previous edicts regarding benefits for the handicapped, such as providing all persons equal access to important community news. As I have said before my objective in bringing forth this proposal is to not only help members of the

disabled community. But, to also afford persons who can not read, do not wish to read, and do not have enough vision to read the news indicated on the above channels the ability to hear it.

Due to Cambridge's diverse culture we have in our city many people who do not know how to speak or read English. Perhaps, they to could take advantage of this new audio idea.

Before putting my thoughts together on paper I took the opportunity to query many residents from all walks of life about having such a system in place. The responses I received from fellow residents was favorable! So, tonight I ask the council's help on implementing just such an audio system.

III. CONCLUSION

It is my hope that with the assistance of the Cambridge City Council and Continental Cablevision an agreement can be reached which would allow all persons to benefit from the exigent information appearing on the following television channels. 1. Community Events Bulletin Board (3,19,66) 2. School Department News (36) and 3. Cambridge Municipal T.V. (37). Perhaps, affording more citizens with this knowledge can help to bring the inhabitation of Cambridge closer together. And thus broaden our knowledge of different cultures with in our little melting-pot!

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Michael J. McGeer



City of Cambridge

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IN CITY COUNCIL

Councillor Walsh

July 29, 1991

WHEREAS: The attached correspondence from Michael McDermott of Berkshire Street, Cambridge conveys a compelling and convincing argument for the City's Office for Cable TV to work with Continental Cablevision to bring about the suggested adaptation and thereby assure presence of an audio supplement to information disseminated via the various Cable TV channels as referenced on page 2 of Mr. McDermott's letter. It would be an appropriate time to give consideration to having this audio supplement delivered in diverse languages since, as Mr. McDermott notes, "Due to Cambridge's diverse culture we have in our city many people who do not know how to speak or read English. Perhaps, they could take advantage of this new audio idea ". Now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager request the Director of the City's Office of Cable TV to contact the Manager of Continental Cablevision and undertake the preliminary steps necessary to implement this change in policy. Further, that the City Manager report back to the Council with data on this request by September 9, 1991; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk, upon receipt of the requested response, schedule a Public Hearing on this matter before the Council's Committee on Cable TV and Communications as soon as possible.

(ATTACHMENT - 2 pages)



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 490-6094

William H. Walsh
City Councillor

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION FORM:

DATE: MONDAY, JULY 6, 1991

FROM: Personal Office of Councillor William H. Walsh
Athenaeum House
215 First Street
Cambridge, MA. 02142
TELEPHONE: 617 354-3366
FAX NUMBER: 617 876-9331

TO: Sandra Albano, Ass't to City Council
City Council Office City Hall, CAMBRIDGE, MA. 02139

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES, INCLUDING THIS PAGE: 4

If you do not receive the number of pages as indicated above,
please telephone immediately.

REMARKS: Councillor Walsh requests that the enclosed Council Order and
2 page attachment regarding CABLE TV Audio supplement be in-
cluded in the CONSENT AGENDA for the Council Session of
JULY 29, 1991.

Signature of person in Councillor Walsh's office transmitting
the document(s).

David F. Noonan

XXXX PLEASE PHONE ME UPON RECEIPT OF THIS
TO CONFIRM IT HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND FILED.

Thank you for your usual cooperation.

June 28, 1991

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AUG. 7 1991

City Council

Adopted by the affirmative vote

of 9 members

Joseph E. Conerton City Clerk

CONSENT ORDER # 1

F-449

Sullivan & MW.

Councillor Walsh re: audio supplement to
information disseminated via the Cable
TV channels.

In City Council,

August 7, 1991

Order adopted