



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

P R E S S R E L E A S E

3 OCTOBER 1985

THE LENGTHY AND VERY EXACTING PROCESS OF BRINGING CABLE TV INTO CAMBRIDGE IS ONE STEP CLOSER TO COMPLETION. THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE AND AMERICAN CABLESYSTEMS HAVE SIGNED A PROVISIONAL CABLE TELEVISION LICENSE THAT COULD BRING CABLE INTO SOME CAMBRIDGE HOMES BY THE END OF 1986.

THE PROVISIONAL LICENSE IS A FIRST BUT VERY IMPORTANT STEP IN THE TWO PART LICENSING PROCESS LAID OUT BY MASSACHUSETTS REGULATIONS. DURING THE PROVISIONAL LICENSE PERIOD, AMERICAN CABLESYSTEMS MUST PROVIDE COMPLETE DOCUMENTATION ON THEIR FINANCING PLAN AND BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE SYSTEM. A GREAT DEAL OF DOCUMENTATION, RECORDS, AND INFORMATION MUST BE PRODUCED AS WELL AS ALL THE REQUIRED CONSTRUCTION AND MAKE-READY PERMITS. A FINAL LICENSE CAN BE SIGNED UPON SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BEGIN UPON ISSUANCE OF THE FINAL LICENSE.

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PRESS RELEASE

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THE PROVISIONAL LICENSE, WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT ALL THE LIBRARIES AND AT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE IS A GOOD DOCUMENT WHICH PROTECTS THE INTERESTS AND RIGHTS OF CAMBRIDGE RESIDENTS AND WILL ALLOW AMERICAN CABLESYSTEMS TO DEVELOP A SUPERIOR COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. I BELIEVE THAT THE CITY AND THE CABLE OPERATOR HAVE BOTH WORKED VERY HARD IN HAMMERING OUT A SUBSTANTIAL AND PAINSTAKING DOCUMENT WHICH BOTH PARTIES CAN TAKE PRIDE IN AND LIVE WITH COMFORTABLY FOR THE FIFTEEN YEAR DURATION OF THE LICENSE.

I WOULD ESPECIALLY LIKE TO EXTEND THANKS TO COUNCILLOR DANIEL CLINTON, CHAIRMAN OF THE CITY COUNCIL'S SUB-COMMITTEE ON CATV AND TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THEIR INTEREST AND CONCERN IN THIS ISSUE AND ALSO TO THE CITY MANAGER'S CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THEIR LONG AND DILIGENT WORK TO THE CITY.

I ALSO WANT TO EXPRESS GREAT APPRECIATION TO DEPUTY CITY MANAGER, RICHARD ROSSI, PHIL SUSSLER, THE CITY CABLE COUNSEL, AND TO JEAN RICE, WHO ALONG WITH THE CITY'S OFFICE OF CABLE TELEVISION NEGOTIATED THE PROVISIONAL LICENSE. ###

Significant Aspects of the Provisional License Agreement

1. **Subscriber and User Rights:** The License clearly spells out Subscriber and User Rights. This Section includes regulations for provision of all basic subscriber information in multi-lingual formats, procedures for prompt service calls and complaint resolution and full disclosure on all prices and services.
2. **Invasion of Privacy:** The License contains very strong language on protection of residents from Invasion of Privacy.
3. **Institutional Network:** The Cable System will employ a two-way cable configuration. One cable will be primarily for subscribers and the second will be utilized as a two-way institutional network which will link together businesses, schools, libraries, and other uses whose communication needs require two-way or one-way video, audio or data transmission or reception. There will be 80 plus channels on each cable line.
4. **Finances:** The License offers a certain amount of flexibility in the financing plan and in use of alternative funding sources which will guarantee the financial security of the system especially during the very important construction and developmental periods early in the life of the License.
5. **Employment Plan and Procurement:** The License stipulates an employment plan and procurement procedures which will support local residents, and businesses including minority and women-owned businesses. The plans include hiring a work force of 50% residents, 50% women, and 25% minorities for the period of system operation, and a work of 50% residents of 25% minorities and 10% women during the con-

Significant Aspects of the Provisional License Agreement

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5. continued. struction phase. An agreement has been reached to utilize Cambridge, minority, and women-owned businesses and vendors according to clearly defined procedures.
6. Cambridge Public Access Corporation (CPAC): The emphasis on local programming has been translated in the License into the development of a plan for Local Origination Programs and in a separate agreement to develop and fund an independent, non-profit Public Access Corporation which will provide alternative local programming. The Cambridge Public Access Corporation (CPAC) will be developed and supported with \$250,000. in initial start-up funding, \$470,960. in initial capital funding, \$201,000. for capital replacement costs over the term of the License, and on-going annual support of \$150,000. or 3% of Gross Annual Revenues, whichever is greater.
7. Municipal Access Grant: The City's use of the Cable System will include a Municipal Access Channel which will provide information for residents on all aspects of citizen/government interaction, cablecasts of City Council meetings and hearings or meetings of importance to the public and news and information on emergency situations. American has agreed to assist the ongoing funding of this program with an annual contribution of .75% of Gross Annual Revenues.



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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

October 7, 1985

To the Honorable, the City Council:

With respect to Awaiting Report Item No. 34 relative to a status report on contract negotiations with American Cablesystems, enclosed please find copy of a Press Release issued on October 3, 1985.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mbf
Enc.

THE COURT REPORTERS

10/15/85

October 7, 1985

Placed on File -

SECRET