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# BUSINESS

THE BOSTON GLOBE • SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1994

## Nynex seeks to offer cable TV in Boston & re

 By Aaron Zitner  
 GLOBE STAFF

Offering Massachusetts residents their first break from cable television monopolies, New England's regional telephone company yesterday proposed offering cable television service over its phone network in parts of Boston, Somerville, Cambridge and seven other communities as early as next year.

The move by Nynex Corp. would give residents a choice among cable providers for the first time and could force prices to fall.

Nynex said it asked the Federal Commu-

nications Commission yesterday for approval to upgrade its phone network to carry cable television, along with yet-unperfected services of the future, such as movies on demand, interactive television programs, banking and shopping from home. A variety of companies could offer programs over the network, which would carry between 400 and 800 channels.

Depending on FCC actions, Nynex said, construction of the new network would begin in Somerville, Revere and Winthrop late this year or early next year, with service starting as early as mid-1995.

Work would then start in Roxbury, Beacon Hill, Brighton, Back Bay, Brookline, Cambridge, Watertown, Peabody, Salem and Marblehead. But Nynex said it could not be specific about a timetable for those communities. In all, 830,000 Massachusetts customers and 60,000 in Rhode Island would be linked to the network. Nynex said it intends to broaden the network further "given the right investment climate."

While Nynex previously said it wanted to build the network, and set its price at about \$500 million, it had never said when or where construction would start.

Only three days ago, Bell Atlantic became the first telephone company to get FCC approval to offer similar service on a permanent basis. Eventually, all regional Bells are expected to ask for permission to offer cable service, and cable companies are expected to offer telephone service, as federal regulators and the courts have ruled that kept the two industries separate.

Area cable companies yesterday said they welcomed the rivalry from Nynex. "This is competition," acknowledged Somers, assistant general manager of

### Nynex seeks OK on cable

NYNEX

Continued from Page 7

that wanted to provide content.

"You could come to us and say, 'I would like to make my programs available over your network, my archive of documentaries or my newspaper morgue.' And we would carry it, and a viewer would be able to select that from his or her television screen," said John Johnson, a spokesman for Nynex in Boston.

Since May, Nynex has been testing video-on-demand and other services in three high-rise, apartment buildings in Manhattan. Programming for the trial is supplied by Time Warner Cable, the cable giant, and Liberty Cable Television, a small company with about 20,000 subscribers in Manhattan.

Liberty Cable is one of three companies that has said it wants to offer programming over the Nynex system in Massachusetts, according to Joseph DeMauro, managing director for video dialtone at Nynex. The others are CAI Wireless Systems, which runs a wireless cable operation in Albany, and Urban Cable Systems Corp., a small company operating in New York.

In addition to operating approval, the FCC must approve the rates that Nynex charges subscribers and programming providers, such as Liberty Cable. State regulators would continue to regulate Nynex telephone rates.

Nynex is pushing on several fronts to win regulatory changes that it says are important to making its new system competitive. In April, the company asked the state Department of Public Utilities to switch to a new regulatory scheme more centered on phone prices rather than on Nynex's rate of return. The new scheme would give Nynex more incentives to upgrade its network, the company says.

In addition, Nynex last year filed suit in Portland, Maine, to overturn portions of the federal Cable Act that prevent it from offering its own cable programming in the region it provides local phone service.

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# next year

Corp. vision of Boston, which operates in Boston, Brookline and Peabody. "It is a threat to us? Sure, it's a threat. But we welcome the competition. We've been doing this for awhile, and we think we can do a better job than them."

Under provisions of the federal Cable Act of 1984 now contested in courts and in Congress, Nynex would not be able to own the programming offered over its network. Instead, it would operate as a common carrier of "video dialtone" service and would be required to open its network to any company

NYNEX, Page 9

The Nynex network would use much of the 270,000-mile system of fiber optic lines that the company has already laid in Massachusetts. From the fiber optic network, two lines would run into homes and businesses; existing copper wires, which would continue to carry telephone signals, and new coaxial cables, which would carry video signals.

Nynex previously said it had signed deals for Raynet Corp. of Menlo Park, Calif., to provide fiber optic equipment for the system and with Fujitsu of Japan to provide switching equipment. Digital Equipment Corp. of Maynard would provide video servers, computers that store digitized information, such as movies.



# City of Cambridge

2.  
AMENDED ORDER

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 19, 1994

- COUNCILLOR WALSH
- COUNCILLOR BORN
- COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
- COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
- COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: Susan Fleischman, the Executive Director of Cambridge Community Television has notified various local officials that regional telephone companies were granted the right to begin to carry video signals through their wires into their home; and

WHEREAS: NYNEX has announced its intention to provide such service in the Boston area (including Cambridge) as early as next year (see attached Boston Globe article of 7/9/94); and

WHEREAS: Telephone companies regulated at the state level are not currently required to pay franchise fees; and

WHEREAS: Cable companies are arguing that this represents unfair competition and in the future should Continental's revenue decline due to this competition from NYNEX or others, the franchise fees paid to the City will also decrease; and

WHEREAS: Public policy and legislation is evolving quickly in this area and may affect Cambridge soon; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to study the issues at hand, and offer recommendations regarding action, a recommended policy or what steps have been taken or will be taken with a response in one week.

In City Council September 19, 1994.  
Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.  
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:- *D. Margaret Drury*

D. Margaret Drury,  
City Clerk



# City of Cambridge

2.

ORIGINAL ORDER

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 19, 1994

COUNCILLOR WALSH  
COUNCILLOR BORN  
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY  
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN  
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

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ORDERED: That His Honor the Mayor be and hereby is requested to set up a working group representing all interested to enroll to study this potential situation and to recommend proposed policy and legislation to deal with these new developments. It is further requested that this working committee report back to the City Council with its recommendations within 120 days of its formation.

27.

Sep 2 12

August 15, 1994

## COUNCILLOR WALSH

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# City of Cambridge

27.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 12, 1994

## COUNCILLOR WALSH

WHEREAS: Susan Fleischman, the Executive Director of Cambridge Community Television has notified various local officials that regional telephone companies were granted the right to begin to carry video signals through their wires into their home; and

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*Bonus  
Muller  
Sullivan*

Consent Order ~~#27~~ #2

Councillor Walsh re: Regional telephone companies  
were granted the right to carry video signals through their  
wires in Boston Area (including Cambridge)

*In city Council Sept. 19, 1994*

~~In City Council September 12, 1994~~

*No action taken*



# City of Cambridge

Reconsideration #1  
 AMENDED ORDER  
 Calendar Item # 7

IN CITY COUNCIL

~~August 1, 1994~~  
~~September 12, 1994~~  
 September 19, 1994

COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

- WHEREAS: An anti-rent control ballot question known as "Question Nine" will appear on the ballot in the November 1994 statewide election; and
- WHEREAS: Question Nine, if passed by the voters, will essentially end all rent control in Cambridge and other cities in the state;
- WHEREAS: The overwhelming majority of the voters of Cambridge have demonstrated their continued support for rent control whenever and however the issue has arisen; and
- WHEREAS: There are currently over 16,000 rent-controlled units in Cambridge; and
- WHEREAS: It is estimated that between 2,000 and 3,000 low income families currently living in rent-controlled housing will be unable to pay rent increases which can take effect in January; and
- WHEREAS: While the overwhelming majority of rent-control supporters in Cambridge will work hard for the defeat of Question Nine and both hope and expect that the voters of Massachusetts, whatever their position on rent control, will recognize the rights of a community to exercise local control, the danger of the loss of rent control as of January 1, 1995 is very real and must not be minimized; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to prepare by September 26, 1994 his recommendations for a home rule petition to be filed in the legislature at the earliest possible date if Question Nine passes election; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to present to the City Council by September 26, 1994 a description of what contingency plans the City is making for the protection of tenants if Question Nine passes; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Manager/City Solicitor be and hereby is requested to report to the City Council by September 26, 1994, whether litigation opposing the implementation of the anti-rent control ballot question, on any grounds, would be feasible and advisable; and what other options are available to the City to oppose the implementation of the anti-rent control ballot question.

In City Council September 12, 1994.  
Adopted as amended by a yea and nay vote:  
Yeas 6; Nays 1; Absent 0; Present 2.  
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy; *D. Margaret Drury*

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury,  
City Clerk

9/19/94 RECONSIDERATION FAILED 3 - 6 - 0.  
ACTION TAKEN ON SEPTEMBER 12, 1994 ADOPTING THE ORDER --  
STANDS.



# City of Cambridge

ORIGINAL ORDER  
 Calendar Item # 7  
 IN CITY COUNCIL  
 60.

~~August 1, 1994~~  
 September 12, 1994

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# City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council 9-19 1994

*Reconsidered: 1*

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT	
Ms. Kathleen L. Born		✓			
Mr. Francis H. Duehay		✓			
Mr. Jonathan S. Myers		✓			
Mrs. Sheila T. Russell	✓				
Mr. Michael A. Sullivan	✓				
Mr. Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.		✓			
Ms. Katherine Triantafillou		✓			
Mr. William H. Walsh	✓				
Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves		✓			

3      6      0      0



# City of Cambridge

AMENDED ORDER  
Calendar Item # 7

~~60.~~

IN CITY COUNCIL

~~August 1, 1994~~  
September 12, 1994

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A true copy;

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*D. Margaret Drury*

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**RECONSIDERATION FILED BY COUNCILLOR WALSH**



# City of Cambridge

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Yeas 6; Nays 1; Absent 0; Present 2.  
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:- *D. Margaret Drury*

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**RECONSIDERATION FILED BY COUNCILLOR WALSH**



# City of Cambridge

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Calendar Item # 7

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# City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council 9-12 1994

*C. Triantafillou - Charter Right # 7*

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT
Ms. Kathleen L. Born	✓			
Mr. Francis H. Duehay	✓			
Mr. Jonathan S. Myers	✓			
Mrs. Sheila T. Russell				✓
Mr. Michael A. Sullivan				✓
Mr. Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.	✓			
Ms. Katherine Triantafillou	✓			
Mr. William H. Walsh		✓		
Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves	✓			

6

1

2

*C. Walsh objects*

*Mayor - noted clock Sullivan Chamber - stated 11:58 PM*



# City of Cambridge

60.

## IN CITY COUNCIL

August 1, 1994

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CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR TOOMEY



# City of Cambridge

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Consent Order #60

Councillor Triantafillou re: Anti-rent  
control ballot "Question Nine."

In City Council August 1, 1994

Charter right exercised  
by Joomey.

9/14/94 - Order adopted  
as amended

6-0-0-2

Reconsideration filed  
by Councillor Walsh

MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR

1994 SEP 13 AM 13:20

CAMBRIDGE MA.

Date

Councillor Walsh's intention to move reconsideration of the vote taken on September 12, 1994 adopted an order relative to the anti rent control ballot Question Number Nine.

*Wm H Walsh*

Signature

1.

RECONSIDERATION

CM 300

Councillor Walsh's intention to move reconsideration of the vote taken on September 12, 1994 adopting an order relative to the anti rent control ballot question number nine.

In City Council,  
Sept. 19, 1994

*Reconsideration  
Failed 3-6-0.  
Action taken on  
9/12/94 adopting the  
Order - Stand.*