

Yasuna John Murakami

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2001 MAR 27 P 4: 03

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
March 8, 2001

David P. Maher
120 Appleton Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

CC: Cambridge City Council, Office of the Mayor, City Manager

Dear Mr. Maher,

I am writing this letter to you to because I have heard from friends of mine who are involved with the city and live in my building (Edward Sullivan and Jill Herald) that the City of Cambridge is now renegotiating the city's cable television contract with Media One/AT&T Broadband. I would like to ask that the city ask Media One/AT&T Broadband to add the channel "Speedvision" to the cable television lineup.

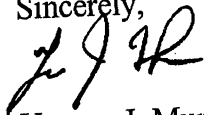
Now to give you a little background, Speedvision, besides being the conduit for broadcasts of NASCAR and various other popular U.S. racing formulas, is the official American broadcasting channel of the Formula One Grand Prix Series. Formula One is the most watched annual spectator sport in the world. It is actually equal to World Cup soccer and just behind the Olympics in total viewer ship. Cambridge as you well know, has a very large international population, both through the university populations of Harvard and MIT as well as the large number of upscale, luxury condominiums in the area. The Esplanade, Thomas Graves Landing, and the Museum Towers border my condominium complex, River Court, as a large collection of these sorts of condominium complexes. In my condominium alone, about 35 of us would gather for each race weekend to watch. I know of even larger groups in the other condominiums that gather for races. These groups closely resemble the NFL/SuperBowl/World Series parties that occur in many "average" American households. I also know of groups in the other large Cambridge ethnic neighborhoods (Brazilian fans, etc...) that gather for the races. There is even actually a Formula One/Brazilian themed restaurant nearby. Although Formula One has not garnered the support in the U.S. that it has elsewhere, this may be changing. For one, the U.S. Grand Prix is returning to the U.S. in September (at Indiannapolis, site of the Indy 500), for the first time in many years. As result, a great deal of publicity is growing surrounding this form of racing in the U.S.

There are several other issues that I, and many others in the community, have with Media One/AT&T Broadband's decision to not show this channel. This is a concern because it seems to show a lack of sensitivity towards the interests of a large number of international/racing fans, and has become clearly disturbing to all of us.

In closing, I understand that you are a busy man, but I would love to be able to discuss this matter with you in the future. I would like to know if there is anything that I

or any of my friends and colleagues can do to get Speedvision returned to the cable channel lineup. We are currently in the process of accumulating a very large listing (several hundred signatures already) of signatures of property owners in the area for a petition asking Media One/AT&T Broadband to show Speedvision. Please free to contact me at any time, I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'YJ Murakami', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Yasuna J. Murakami



OFFICE OF THE VICE MAYOR

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 349-4280 • FAX: (617) 349-4287

TTY/TDD (617) 349-4242 • Email: dmaher@ci.cambridge.ma.us

David P. Maher
Vice Mayor

March 23, 2001

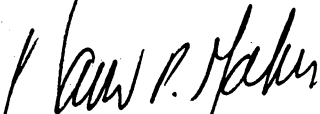
Mr. Yasuna John Murakami
10 Rogers Street, #1218
Cambridge, MA 02142

Dear Mr. Murakami:

As Chairman of the Cable TV Subcommittee, I have referred your concerns to the City Clerk to be made part of the record.

Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns.

Sincerely yours,


David P. Maher
Vice Mayor

DPM/mh

cc: D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk ✓

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CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

1705

**Communications & Reports from
Other City Officers #1**

A communication was received
from Vice Mayor David P. Maher,
transmitting a communication from
Yasuna John Murakami regarding
adding "Speedvision" to the cable
television lineup.

In City Council April 2, 2001

Referred to the
Cable ~~Telecommunications~~
and Public Utilities
Committee on motion
of Vice Mayor
Maher

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4-4-01
mc