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CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 498-9094

Daniel J. Clinton
City Councillor

Chairman

Cable TV Committee
Transportation and Parking Committee

October 16, 1984

CABLE PROCESS UPDATE

The Honorable; the City Council:

As of October 22, Cambridge is on its way in the second and final stage of the selection process for a company to wire the city for cable television. Now that the applicants have filed their final amended applications, we will begin to closely examine all proposals in light of the City's requirements.

Before its recess last week, the United States Congress passed a federal cable bill known as HR 4103. The passage of this bill is particularly timely for our cable system's development. HR 4103 establishes a national cable policy and is the result of a lengthy and hard won collaborative effort by the United States Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities and the National Cable Television Association. Among the bill's more important points are the following:

Franchise Fee: HR 4103 allows cities and towns to collect a franchise fee of up to five percent of the gross revenues of the cable company.

EE0: the bill includes guidelines for the equal employment programs.

License Renewal: language in the new bill ensures that licenses can only be renewed if the operator's past performance and future proposals meet with the City's requirements.



License Applicants

The selection process as it now stands is at the halfway point. In the initial round, as you all know, Cambridge received four applications from American Cablesystems, Cablevision, Cable Plus, and from Cambridge Cablevision Corporation. All of the proposals present the city with unique and interesting system designs.

System Specifications

In July, the city released its Issuing Authority Report which detailed numerous specifications and requirements and it is to this report that the new amended applications are addressed. Although the City Manager will make the final selection from these proposals, we will first proceed through several steps.

Preliminary Report

The Office of Cable Television and the City's consultant, Rice Associates, in conjunction with the City Manager's Cable Advisory Committee will begin to prepare an initial report on the applications which will outline, in comparative form the offerings of each applicant.

Clarification Meetings

At this time the consultants will also prepare a series of questions for each applicant to be answered in writing. These questions which will explore each proposal in depth, will be further investigated by the City in a number of clarification meetings with each applicant. These meetings will allow City Council members and City officials to question all of the applicants themselves.

Public Hearings

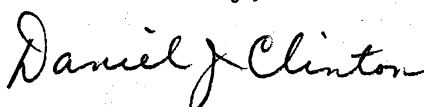
Public Hearings will also be scheduled during which the applicants will be allowed to present their proposals to members of the public who will then be given an opportunity to ask their own questions.

Final Report

Finally, after all clarification meetings and public hearings, Rice Associates will present a final comparative report to the City Manager and the City Council and a decision will be reached by the Manager shortly thereafter. As of this date, the meetings and hearings are tentatively scheduled for late December and early January.

In light of the fact that the City has received excellent and diverse applications and that Congress has passed a sensible and workable cable law, I believe that Cambridge's chances of receiving a superior cable system are very good. At this point, I would like to thank my colleagues in the City Council for their support of HR 4103. The Council's recent resolutions in favor of the legislation were part of a nationwide show of support by municipal officials which went a long way in assuring Congress of necessity of such legislation.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Clinton
City Councillor
Chairman Cable TV Committee

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S-647

Comm. from Councillor Daniel J. Clinton, Chairman, Committee on Cable TV, transmitting a Cable Process Update.

copy sent to the City Manager 10/24/84 mlr

In City Council,

October 22, 1984

10/22/84

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- City Manager -