



City of Cambridge

27.

IN CITY COUNCIL

August 2, 1993

COUNCILLOR WALSH
COUNCILLOR WOLF

WHEREAS: In the July 12, 1993 issue of Nation's Cities Weekly, the attached article appeared on a proposed money saver for cities on long distance calling costs; and

WHEREAS: Any money that can be saved by the City must be looked into especially in these difficult economic times; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager is hereby requested to advise the City Council as to how much this City spends annually on long distance calls and, if appropriate, look into the feasibility of using MCI's new PTS 2000 program.

In City Council August 2, 1993.

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

Minnesota League Signs On To 'PTS 2000' Long Distance Plan

by Mary France Gordon

The League of Minnesota Cities is the fifth state municipal league that has recently enrolled in PTS 2000, a service designed to save on long distance calling costs, developed by Public Technology, Inc., NLC's affiliate organization, in cooperation with MCI. It serves as an excellent model of public/private cooperation for exclusive use by leagues and NLC member cities and towns.

According to James Miller, executive director of the Minnesota league, "The League of Minnesota Cities recently examined several alternatives for its long distance telephone service. We quickly determined that the PTS 2000 program was clearly our best option. It provides both the internal control and ease of use we were seeking and does so at a considerable savings."

In essence, PTS 2000 offers subscribers low-cost long distance telephone service and a variety of features designed to help local governments and leagues save costs and maximize a municipality's use of its telephone system. It was created to combine the power of local governments by providing all participants with an opportunity to receive volume discounts and sophisticated management features while using Vnet, MCI's virtual private network service.

For example, if the city of Fort Worth, Tex. regularly uses up to 52,000 minutes of regular long distance service, the monthly charge would be \$13,400. Under the PTS 2000 program, those minutes would cost only \$7,400 resulting in a monthly savings of \$6,000. For a three year period, this can translate into a savings of 45 percent.

Charles Pasqua, executive director of the Louisiana Municipal League (which enrolled in PTS 2000 several months ago) says, "Our involvement with PTS 2000 is a typical and terrific example of how a progressive league can provide a service on behalf of its municipalities." The service is appealing because the benefits include management and billing features that have been traditionally available only to large corporate customers.

NLC began using the service last year, and according to Patty Malvik, director of Administration, "We estimate that NLC will benefit and save between \$3,000 to \$4,000 per year using this program."

Other state leagues currently enrolled in PTS 2000 include the League of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, the League of Iowa Municipalities, the Maine Municipal Association, and the Missouri Municipal League. Christopher Lockwood, executive director of the Maine league explains, "The Maine Municipal Association (MMA) switched to the PTS 2000 program in early 1992. MMA is extremely pleased with the negotiated arrangement that allows us, and communities in Maine, to receive better rates on our long distance service without compromising quality." PTI's president, Costis Toregas says, "It's truly exciting to see the leagues joining with their cities to explore common solutions and strategies on this unique, low-cost network."

NLC leagues and municipalities are encouraged to enroll. If you are interested in learning more about the program and want to enroll, contact Mary Gordon at NLC at (202) 626-3169, or Linda Keenan at PTI at (202) 626-2400. ■

CCM:101



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July 21, 1993

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Walsh Consent Order # 27 *CM* 236

Councillor Walsh re: proposed money saver for
cities on long distance calling costs.

In City Council,

August 2, 1993

order adopted