



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

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JOHN E. FLYNN
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

TO: The Honorable, The City Council

FROM: Joseph E. Connarton *JEC*
City Clerk

SUBJECT: Committee on Cable Television

DATE: September 16, 1991

Pursuant to a telephone conversation with Councillor William H. Walsh, Chair of the above referenced committee, I am enclosing a copy of a report of a hearing held on May 30, 1990. You will note that at the hearing Mr. George F. Welch, Jr. a/k/a Jack was present and requested to provide public testimony relative to a memorandum he had submitted to the Committee regarding his concerns relative to the overall operation of Cable Television in Cambridge. Although he refused to do so due to the absence of the City Manager, his memorandum was referred to the City Manager for a report.

It should be noted that City Manager Healy obtained outside legal counsel in an effort to adequately respond to the many issues raised by Mr. Welch. The legal counsel submitted a full report to the City Manager on July 2, 1990 and in turn the Manager provided a copy to Mr. Welch.

Councillor Walsh's office informed me that if this report was in fact not on the calendar of this meeting, he, Mr. Welch, would again undertake a suit against the City of Cambridge.

City of Cambridge

September 16, 1991

The Committee on Cable Television conducted a public hearing on May 30, 1990 in the Sullivan Chamber, City Hall beginning at 5:46 P.M. for the purpose of receiving public testimony from Mr. Philip Ripa, and Mr. George Welch, relative to rate increases in Cambridge Cable service and related cable issues as raised by Mr. Welch. Members present were: Councillor William Walsh, Councillor Walter Sullivan, Councillor Timothy Toomey and City Clerk Joseph Connarton.

Councillor Walsh, Chairman of the Committee opened the hearing and questioned Mr. Ripa relative to recent rate increases by Continental Cable. Mr. Ripa informed the Committee that the increases were necessary to address personnel costs for both current and future employees and that there would be no increase in project ratio costs.

Responding to a question by Councillor Walsh, Mr. Ripa stated that senior citizens residing in public housing are receiving discounted rates, but seniors throughout the city are not. He stated he would be willing to look into expanding the discount in the future.

At this time the Committee heard from Mr. George F. Welch, Jr. a/k/a Jack, a resident of 3 Woodrow Wilson Court, Apartment 24, Cambridge, Ma. who outlined a series of problems he had with the operation of Cable in Cambridge. He submitted 3 page memorandum in support of his concerns. Mr. Welch stated he did not want to go into the memorandum in length without the City Manager being present, given the fact that he, the City Manager, was the appointing authority.

Councillor Walsh stated that the City Manager was not in attendance at this hearing, but the Committee was willing to go forward and listen to Mr. Welch. Mr. Welch again stated his desire to have the City Manager present.

Councillor Sullivan moved to refer Mr. Welch's memorandum to the City Manager for a report. The motion carried.

The hearing was adjourned at 6:22P.M.

For the Committee

William H. Walsh

Councillor William H. Walsh
Chairman

1.

Communications & Report from
City Officials

S-952

Comm. from Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk,
together with a report from Councillor
William H. Walsh, Chairman of the Cable
Television Committee, for a hearing held
on May 30, 1990 relative to the concerns
of George F. Welch, Jr., on the overall
operation of Cable Television in the City.

In City Council,

Sept. 16, 1991

Report accepted

Placed on file