

DFN
Councillor Duehay suggested that a sub-committee consisting of Maura Smith of the City Manager's Office, Susan Boyle of the Council Office, Ned Casey of the Cable Office and Joseph Connarton, City Clerk meet with him to provide any assistance necessary in order to establish a better flow of information to the public.

At this time Councillor Graham stated that the flow of communication should not be too complicated for the public; that as time goes on and the general public gets used to watching the sessions, they will follow the process very well. She stated that this is done in the Legislature and that they have "Gavel to Gavel" coverage on Channel 44.

Councillor Wolf stated that possibly capsules of information could be provided by the City Manager's & City Clerk's Office in order to help the public understand the process.

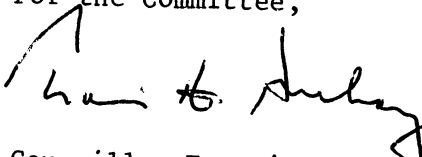
At this time Councillor Duehay questioned Mr. Sakey as to the status of the Public Access Group.

Mr. Sakey responded by stating that the group has just rented 3,800 sq. ft. of office space in Kendall Square and that as of yet no Director of the Public Access Board has been appointed and stated that possibly, in the next sixty days, the Committee could have a meeting specifically with the Public Access Group.

At this time the Committee viewed the control room from the balcony of the Sullivan Chamber and observed the monitoring equipment and cameras.

The hearing was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

For the Committee,



Councillor Francis H. Duehay
Chairman

City of Cambridge

In City Council December 15, 1986

The Legislative & Government
Operations

Committee

conducted a public meeting on Thursday, December 11, 1986 in the Ackermann Room, City Hall beginning at 11:10 a.m. The purpose of the meeting was to receive an update on the implementation of cable television in the Sullivan Chamber, as well as to discuss a public access channel.

Councillor Francis Duehay, Chairman of the Committee, opened the meeting by stating that he hoped the Council sessions, as well as meetings of boards and commissions would soon be televised through the cable network.

The City Manager stated that each City Councillor's desk microphone will have a clearly marked on and off switch in order that the Councillors will easily identify the control mechanism so that their voices will not be carried over the airwaves if they so desire. The City Manager further suggested that once all the camera equipment is installed, that several meetings of the Council be taped and reviewed by the City Council in order to get a feel for what the people at home will be observing. This, he said will provide each Councillor with an opportunity to become comfortable with the installation and operation of the cable network. He further stated, that as previously discussed, the press table will be moved to the corner on the right of the rostrum as you enter the Chamber and there will be both a podium and table for public speaking at the entrance of the railing.

Councillor Duehay stated that he thought those arrangements would be adequate and again stated that he would like a time-table as to the availability of cable for not only the City Council meetings but for boards and commissions as well.

Joseph Sakey, Commissioner of Cable Television, stated that it is his belief and that of the Cable Office that the City should move slowly and in a pragmatic way, in order to adjust to the use of television in the Chamber. He further stated that they have conducted a number of surveys throughout the City as to elicit views from the public as to their viewing habits and their interest, and that the surveys have come back indicating that they are. He further stated that the third floor of the City Hall annex will be wired and for broadcast and use by the boards and commissions in the near future. He stated that it was his intent to make available the cable equipment to boards and commissions with the approval of the City Council.

At this time, Mr. Ned Casey, also of the Cable Office, informed the Committee that the agenda, communications and Council orders will be picked up by the Cable Office on Fridays, placed into a character generator and will be displayed on the screen during weekends on Channel 8 of the Cable Network. Mr. Casey further stated that he would look forward to working with the City Manager's Office and the City Clerk's Office in an effort to obtain all the necessary information that relates to the City Council meeting.

REPORT

Committee on Legislative & Government
Operations

Re: update on implementation of cable
t.v. in the Sullivan Chamber & the
public access channel.

In City Council,

December 15, 1986

Placed on File