

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

February 1, 1984

PRESS RELEASE

CITY MANAGER'S STATEMENT OF INITIATION OF CABLE TELEVISION PROCESS

The City of Cambridge, Massachusetts, herewith announces the initiation of the cable television licensing process. We will be following a course laid down by the Massachusetts State Cable Commission's Regulations on Licensing Procedures. Public Hearings will be arranged during which time residents and City Officials can meet with and question cable operators who enter applications. The City intends the process to be open and informative.

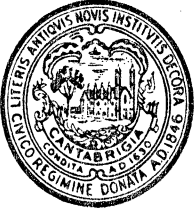
Recent developments and changes within the communications industry have allowed us brief but powerful visions of the future of telecommunications in this country and in the world. The telecommunications industry, as it collides with computer technology and feeds off our increasing demand for better and quicker information delivery and entertainment services, will produce, within a very few years enormous changes in our daily lives. This potential for change demands our attention, obliges us to look with great care to the future of cable television in Cambridge, which, literally, will bring this revolution to our doorstep.

We enter this cable process neither ill-advised nor unprepared. We have, in fact, been preparing for this step for ten years. In 1973, Cambridge, after much discussion, placed a moratorium on cable exploration,

February 1, 1984

deciding that too many questions were not yet answered. Many other cities and towns had already allowed system development and were often unhappy with their decisions. Cambridge chose not to repeat their mistakes. In 1979, the City again addressed the question of cable development in Cambridge and in September of 1980 the City Manager's Cable Advisory Committee issued its first report. Since then, the Advisory Committee and the Office of Cable Television have studied the technology, conducted public workshops, and have met with well over one hundred groups and organizations in the City which total over 5,000 persons. Using these and many other resources, we are developing a set of system specifications which we hope will produce an unparalleled telecommunications system designed to serve and benefit all the varied and vital neighborhoods and residents of every stripe and persuasion and the cultural, business, religious and educational communities of the City.

We look forward, as well, to a cooperative and mutually rewarding relationship with the cable television industry in building a system befitting the City of Cambridge and its residents. There are few cities in the world like Cambridge and such a unique city deserves, demands, a cable system that will serve not simply as a vehicle for entertainment but as a doorway into the communications revolution of the future.



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ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

February 1, 1984

Rosalind A. Niles, Commissioner
Massachusetts Cable Television Commission
100 Cambridge Street
20th Floor - Room 2003
Boston, MA 02202

Dear Ms. Niles:

This is to notify you that the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts, in accordance with regulations established by the Massachusetts Cable Television Commission, has initiated the cable licensing process as of February 1, 1984. The process was initiated, pursuant to 207 CMR 3.02 (1) (a), through an independent decision on my part as the Issuing Authority for the City of Cambridge.

Applications are being solicited through notices in Cablevision Magazine, a national trade weekly, and the Cambridge Chronicle. The application deadline is no later than 3:00 P.M. on April 16, 1984 for the filing of State Form 100.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/b



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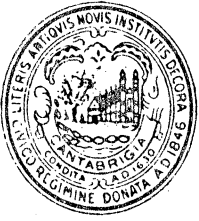
OFFICE OF CABLE TELEVISION

CABLE TELEVISION PROCESS

AND

TIME FRAME

I	Initiation of Process	
	City Manager's Public Notice	February 1, 1984
	State Commission informed	February 1, 1984
	Public Notice--local (first)	February 9, 1984
	Public Notice--local (second)	February 16, 1984
	Public Notice--national	February 6, 1984
II	Deadline for Initial Applications	
	63 days from first notice	April 18, 1984
III	Evaluation of Initial Applications	
	9 weeks (63 days, 45 work days)	April to June 13, 1984
IV	Release of Issuing Authority Report	June 14, 1984
V	Amended Application Deadline	
	75 days, approximately 10 weeks	August 30, 1984
VI	Clarification Meetings	
	First Meeting	October 11, 1984
	Second Meeting	October 18, 1984
VII	Public Hearings	
	First Hearing	October 25, 1984
	Second Hearing	November 1, 1984
VIII	Decision	November 16, 1984
IX	Provisional License Granted	December 7, 1984
X	Final License Granted	May to June 1985
XI	Construction of System Completed	December 1985 to June 1986



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OFFICE OF CABLE TELEVISION

THE CABLE LICENSING PROCESS

FOR

THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

I Initiation of the Process

The licensing process can begin in one of three ways: a resident's petition, an application by a cable company, or a statement from the issuing authority (in Cambridge's case, the City Manager) noting that the City will consider the granting of a license or licenses for a cable television franchise.

II Notification of State Commission

after initiation of the process, the issuing authority will have thirty (30) days in which to:

- a) notify the State Cable Commission of the date of initiation and the method of initiation (petition, application of a cable company, issuing authority's decision to proceed), and
- b) solicit applications and specify a filing deadline for such applications.

III Solicitation of Initial Applications

Within the above-mentioned thirty (30) day period, the issuing authority must begin to solicit applications in the following manner:

- a) publication of a notice in a local newspaper of general circulation in two (2) consecutive weeks. The application deadline must be set at least sixty (60) days after the first appearance of the notice, and
- b) a similar notice must be published not less than sixty (60) days before the filing deadline in at least one of national trade journals (Cablevision, Broadcasting,) and
- c) each notice must state that this is the only time such applications will be accepted.

IV Application Deadline

At least sixty (60) days from the date of the first public notice, all applicants must file a copy of State Form 100, after which a review of all initial applications can take place prior to the issuance of the RFP. Public Hearings may be needed before the actual release of the RFP to allow concerned residents and City officials a chance to read, comment, and offer suggestions on that important document.

V Issuing Authority Report (RFP) Issued

The State specifies no time-line for the release of the RFP but this could be done approximately 8-10 weeks after the deadline for the initial applications. Under State Law, all applicants must receive a copy of the RFP within seven (7) days of its issuance and a deadline for receipt of amended applications is announced at this time.

VI Amended Application Deadline

The issuing authority determines the deadline for the receipt of the amended applications. The State stipulates only a reasonable amount of time, but ninety (90) days seems advisable. The amended applications are reviewed and evaluated and applicants may not, by law, materially alter their applications after this date.

VII Clarification Meetings and Public Hearings

It is desirable for the City to convene a number of clarification meetings to allow City officials to direct more detailed questions to cable company representatives and to allow those representatives to more carefully explicate their proposals. Although, as noted, material changes are not permitted, all questions and answers at these meetings become part of the public record and will be used in the evaluation process.

State law requires that a public hearing be held within a reasonable time after the amended application deadline to "...receive comments on possible CATV services and license specifications and to assess the qualifications of each applicant." It is further required that the issuing authority provide for a record of any hearings (stenographic or tape) the cost of which would be borne by all parties.

Notices for any public hearings must be published for two (2) consecutive weeks in a local newspaper, the first notice appearing at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the hearing.

VIII Evaluation Process

The information gathered at public hearings and clarification meetings will be vitally important in the selection of an applicant to wire Cambridge but other input will be required as well. A survey of other municipalities' experiences with the applicant companies, a survey of the experiences of local community and minority leaders in those areas, and on-site visits to existing cable operations owned by the applicants would all be valuable undertakings. Reports of all such investigations should become part of the public record.

IX Decision

Again the State places no formal time restrictions on the issuing authority except to say that a decision to accept or deny each application should be reached within a reasonable amount of time. (The State does specify that, at the latest, such a decision must be made within eighteen (18) months of the initiation of the process.) A statement of reasons must be drawn up explaining the decision and a copy of this will be sent to all applicants. At this time a provisional license may, if the city wishes, be granted to the winning applicant. Within seven (7) days of the decision, the issuing authority must file a copy of the statement of reasons and the provisional license (if one has been granted) with the State CATV Commission. Losing applicants have thirty (30) days from the date of the decision to appeal.

X Provisional License Granted

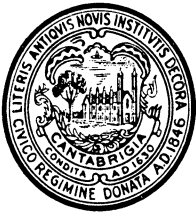
The provisional license can be granted shortly after the decision is made. Care must be taken in drafting this document as it is often substantially identical to the final license and will largely determine the construction and operation of the system during the first year. (in Boston, however, the final license was significantly expanded from the provisional license, covering many areas not touched on by the earlier document.)

The provisional license lasts for up to one year, or until the signing of a final license, during which time the licensee must demonstrate compliance with a list of requirements outlined in the State regulations. These include submission of proof of the licensee's ability to comply with the terms of the contract. During the provisional period public hearings may be convened by either the issuing authority or upon written request by the licensee in order to inform the public on any matter related to the requirements for a final license.

XI Final License Granted

Once the issuing authority is convinced that the licensee is able to comply with all of its requirements a final license may be granted. The final license must contain terms that comply with MGL 166 A (the State's cable law) and terms substantially identical to those of the provisional license. A public statement reporting the license grant must also be issued. A copy of this statement, a copy of the final license, and copies of all relevant documents must be filed with the State CATV Commission within seven (7) days of the granting of the license.

Should the issuing authority wish to deny a final license, due to non-compliance with contract terms, a written statement outlining this decision and the reasons for the denial must be filed with the State CATV Commission and the licensee. Should this situation arise, the issuing authority may choose to recommence the licensing process and accept new applicants. (If the process is re-opened at this point a number of the initial steps of the licensing procedure may be waived.)



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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

February 6, 1984

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the timetable and
the initiation of the Cable Television licensing process.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mbf
Enc.

Agenda Item Number Five

S-69

Re: enclosing a copy of the timetable and the initiation of the Cable Television licensing process.

*copy put aside for CATV Committee to
be forwarded when committee constituted*
In City Council, 2/6/84 mlh

February 6, 1984

2/6/1984

*Referred to the
CATV when constituted*

*copy sent to Councilman Clinton
Chairman, Cable T.V. Committee
in Council package on Friday,
March 9, 1984*