



# City of Cambridge

2.

IN CITY COUNCIL

April 26, 1993

COUNCILLOR WALSH  
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL

WHEREAS: The F.C.C. has recently held hearings regarding rate regulations in accordance with the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992; and

WHEREAS: The Community Antenna Television Commission has recently sent out a letter to each issuing authority, enclosing a summary of the recent F.C.C. hearings; and

WHEREAS: Continental Cablevision has also sent out correspondence regarding the F.C.C. hearings. A copy of said correspondence is attached; and

WHEREAS: The summary from Community Antenna Television Commission contains information from the F.C.C. regarding the jurisdictional issue of who should regulate rates for basic cable television service; and

WHEREAS: This summary and the Continental Cablevision correspondence begins to bring the rate regulation issue into focus pending further information from the F.C.C.; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to have the City Solicitor obtain a copy of the full report from the F.C.C. as soon as possible and to advise the City Council what the procedure will be for rate regulation for basic cable television service and how the issuing authority in Cambridge will be responding to the new Act; and be it further

ORDERED: That said report be made available to the City Council within thirty days.

In City Council April 26, 1993.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

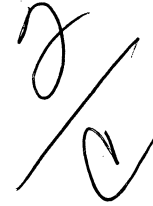
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

*D. Margaret Drury*

D. Margaret Drury  
City Clerk



April 15, 1993

## COUNCILLOR WALSH

- WHEREAS, The F.C.C. has recently held hearings regarding rate regulations in accordance with the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992; and
- WHEREAS, the Community Antenna Television Commission has recently sent out a letter to each issuing authority, enclosing a summary of the recent F.C.C. hearings; and
- WHEREAS, Continental Cablevision has also sent out correspondence regarding the F.C.C. hearings. A copy of said correspondence is attached; and
- WHEREAS, the summary from Community Antenna Television Commission contains information from the F.C.C. regarding the jurisdictional issue of who should regulate rates for basic cable television service; and
- WHEREAS, this summary and the Continental Cablevision correspondence begins to bring the rate regulation issue into focus pending further information from the F.C.C; now therefore be it
- ORDERED, That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to have the City Solicitor obtain a copy of the full report from the F.C.C. as soon as possible and to advise the City Council what the procedure will be for rate regulation for basic cable television service and how the issuing authority in Cambridge will be responding to the new Act, and further ordered that the City Solicitor's report will be made available within thirty days.

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL FORM/LAW OFFICES  
Telephone Number: 547-1772  
Facsimile Number: 491-0923

DATE: 4/15/93

TO:

Jack Ayva

FROM:

Bill Walsh

Telephone:

Fax:

349 4287-

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617-547-1772. THANK YOU.



**Continental  
Cablevision**

April 5, 1993

William H. Walsh  
26 Herbert Street 2nd Fl.  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Mr. Walsh:

On April 1, 1993 the FCC voted to adopt rate regulation rules and to freeze current prices for 120 days starting April 5, 1993. The actual regulations will not be released for at least 30 days, so a number of facts are unclear, but the following highlights are taken from the FCC's press release.

- All prices for cable service and equipment are frozen for 120 days. Premium services such as HBO and Showtime and pay-per-view are not regulated or subject to the freeze.
- The rates for broadcast basic service and tiers of satellite services will be regulated based on benchmarks on a per channel basis. The benchmarks may vary based on the number of satellite services, channels and subscribers. No information about the benchmarks is available yet.
- Communities will be able to regulate rates once they are certified. The FCC will provide simple certification forms and certification will be almost automatic 30 days after the form is filed. The forms are not yet available.
- A system whose rates as of September 30, 1992 were above the benchmarks will be required to roll back the rates to the benchmark or by 10 percent, whichever is less.
- No rollbacks or refunds of broadcast basic rates may be ordered until (1) the rules are published and become effective, (2) forms on which the communities may certify regulatory authority are approved by the Office of Management & Budget, (3) the FCC certifies regulatory authority (30 days after the forms are submitted), (4) the cable operator submits its rates for examination 30 days after the certified franchising authority requests them,



*Russell*

CONSENT ORDER #2

*CM-117*

Councillor Walsh re: Rate regulations in  
accordance with the Cable Television  
Consumer Protection and Competition  
Act of 1992.

In City Council,

April 26, 1993

*Order Adopted*