

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable)	
Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended)	MB Docket No. 05-311
by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and)	
Competition Act of 1992)	

COMMENTS OF PHILADELPHIA COMMUNITY ACCESS CORPORATION

Philadelphia Community Access Corporation, dba PhillyCAM appreciates the opportunity to file comments on the Second Further Notice and Proposed Rulemaking (“FNPRM”) in the above-referenced docket.

PhillyCAM is the non-profit that operates the City of Philadelphia’s public access television and is the license holder of the low power FM radio station WPPM 106.5 FM. Founded in December 2007, PhillyCAM has evolved into a facilitator, creator, aggregator, and distributor of hyper local media that reflects Philadelphia’s cultural diversity. In only 9 years we have been recognized nationally for overall excellence and are considered a valued anchor institution serving the entire city. Our mission is to bring together the people of Philadelphia to make and share media that promotes creative expression, civic engagement and democratic values.

PhillyCAM operates a community media center that is welcoming and provides access to and training in the use of digital media. Anyone who lives or works in the greater Philadelphia region can participate in PhillyCAM programs and community media creation. In 2017 over 1100 individuals and organizations were PhillyCAM members and over 15,000 people came through PhillyCAM's doors.

We are the only regional non-commercial media outlet devoted entirely to the teaching, creation and distribution of locally produced media content on cable television, online and on FM radio. In 9 years PhillyCAM’s membership has grown from 50 to over 1000. Over the past year PhillyCAM cablecasted, to potential audience of over 1 million viewers, over 800 hours of locally sourced, original television programming. This included 150 hours of original stand-alone specials, 95 local series, nearly half of the

local series being produced using PhillyCAM facilities. These programs highlighted local music and cultural events; youth produced narratives and talk shows on current events; a variety of shows covering wellness, local arts and social issues; documentaries on Philly neighborhoods; community news and information and coverage of local elections.

Members receive free to low cost access to video production training, free access to High Definition TV and audio/radio studios and equipment, media production project support for non-profits, youth programs, community meeting space, producer networking events and distribution of their content on cable television and low power FM radio programming. We offered 60 digital media workshops and educational programs.

PhillyCAM's impact extends beyond our members to the entire City through community collaborations with cultural organizations, non-profits and City departments by amplifying their work through media and providing a platform for free expression. Furthermore, PhillyCAM partners with area universities such as Temple University, Community College of Philadelphia, Arcadia University, Rowan University, and others to train media students for careers in broadcasting.

PhillyCAM is a hub for youth media makers and youth serving organizations bringing young people, mentors, and institutions from across the city together in one dynamic space designed to inspire collaboration and creativity. Through the process of creating media young people develop their individual voices, gain confidence, learn to work collaboratively, and acquire important technical and life skills they can apply in school and in the workplace.

Philadelphia, the poorest large city in the country and the 5th largest media market, continues to face devastating cuts and consolidation of local media institutions, leaving Philadelphians hungry for outlets for their voices to be heard and local information shared. Philadelphians, particularly poor and low income people, communities of color and new immigrants, lack communication outlets to express their points of view and places to gather in dialogue are too few. Through our classes, member activities and productions, we create a community around media making, increasing the digital literacy of Philadelphians while embracing the full range of ages and socioeconomic groups in the City.

We reject the implication in the FNPRM that PEG programming is for the benefit of the local franchising authority (LFA) or a third-party PEG provider, rather than for the public or the cable consumer. As demonstrated above, PhillyCAM has positive impact on Philadelphia residents by providing valuable local programming that is not otherwise available on the cable system or in other modes of video delivery

such as satellite. Public Access programming informs, educates, and empowers Philadelphians to be more civically engaged and connected to their communities.

Yet the Commission tentatively concludes that non-capital PEG requirements should be considered franchise fees because they are, in essence, taxes imposed for the benefit of LFAs or their designated PEG providers. By contrast, the FNPRM tentatively concludes that build-out requirements are not franchise fees because they are not contributions to the franchising authority. The FNPRM then requests comment on “other requirements besides build-out obligations that are not specifically for the use or benefit of the LFA or an entity designated the LFA and therefore should not be considered contributions to an LFA.”[1] PEG programming fits squarely into the category of benefits that do not accrue to the LFA or its designated access provider, yet the Commission concludes without any discussion of the public benefits of local programming that non-capital PEG-related provisions benefit the LFA or its designee rather than the public at large.]

PhillyCAM strongly opposes the proposal that cable-related in-kind services would be counted against the franchise fees Comcast and Verizon pays to the City of Philadelphia. Such an action would decimate our ability to provide services to our community. The cable-related services that PhillyCAM provides bring add value to the Philadelphia cable system and serve not only the cable subscribers, but constituencies throughout the community.

In summary, we reject that this proposed rulemaking is anything other than an attempt to further limit cable companies’ responsibilities to pay for their use of the public rights of way, as well as to undermine the spirit of the historical decisions that laid the groundwork requiring these entities to provide community access to the cable systems.

We appreciate the opportunity to add to the record in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of PhillyCAM and its Board of Directors,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gretjen Clausing". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "G" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gretjen Clausing, Executive Director
Philadelphia Public Access Corporation
dba PhillyCAM
November 14, 2018