

**II. Requirements of the Provider**

- A. An unfranchised Provider will not provide video services in any local unit of government without first obtaining a uniform video service local franchise agreement as provided under **Section 3 of the Act** (except as otherwise provided by the Act).
- B. The Provider shall file in a timely manner with the Federal Communications Commission all forms required by that agency in advance of offering video service in Michigan.
- C. The Provider agrees to comply with all valid and enforceable federal and state statutes and regulations.
- D. The Provider agrees to comply with all valid and enforceable local regulations regarding the use and occupation of public rights-of-way in the delivery of the video service, including the police powers of the Franchising Entity.
- E. The Provider shall comply with all Federal Communications Commission requirements involving the distribution and notification of federal, state, and local emergency messages over the emergency alert system applicable to cable operators.
- F. The Provider shall comply with the public, education, and government programming requirements of Section 4 of the Act.
- G. The Provider shall comply with all customer service rules of the Federal Communications Commission under 47 CFR 76.309 (c) applicable to cable operators and applicable provisions of the Michigan Consumer Protection Act, 1976 PA 331, MCL 445.901 to 445.922.
  - i. Including but not limited to: MCL 445.902; MCL 445.903 (1)(a) through 445.903(1)(cc); MCL 445.903(1)(ff) through (jj); MCL 445.903(2); MCL 445.905; MCL 445.906; MCL 445.907; MCL 445.908; MCL 445.910; MCL 445.911; MCL 445.914; MCL 445.915; MCL 445.916; MCL 445.918.
- H. The Provider agrees to comply with in-home wiring and consumer premises wiring rules of the Federal Communications Commission applicable to cable operators.
- I. The Provider shall comply with the Consumer Privacy Requirements of 47 USC 551 applicable to cable operators.
- J. If the Provider is an incumbent video provider, it shall comply with the terms which provide insurance for right-of-way related activities that are contained in its last cable franchise or consent agreement from the Franchising Entity entered before the effective date of the Act.
- K. The Provider agrees that before offering video services within the boundaries of a local unit of government, the video Provider shall enter into a Franchise Agreement with the local unit of government as required by the Act.
- L. The Provider understands that as the effective date of the Act, no existing Franchise Agreement with a Franchising Entity shall be renewed or extended upon the expiration date of the Agreement.
- M. The Provider provides an exact description of the video service area footprint to be served, pursuant to **Section 2(3)(e) of the Act**. If the Provider is not an incumbent video Provider, the date on which the Provider expects to provide video services in the area identified under **Section 2(3)(e) of the Act** must be noted. The Provider will provide this information in Attachment 1 - Uniform Video Service Local Franchise Agreement.
- N. The Provider is required to pay the Provider fees pursuant to **Section 6 of the Act**.

**III. Provider Providing Access**

- A. The Provider shall not deny access to service to any group of potential residential subscribers because of the race or income of the residents in the local area in which the group resides.
- B. It is a defense to an alleged violation of Paragraph A if the Provider has met either of the following conditions:
  - i. Within 3 years of the date it began providing video service under the Act and the Agreement; at least 25% of households with access to the Provider's video service are low-income households.
  - ii. Within 5 years of the date it began providing video service under the Act and Agreement and from that point forward, at least 30% of the households with access to the Provider's video service are low-income households.
- C. **[If the Provider is using telecommunication facilities]** to provide video services and has more than 1,000,000 telecommunication access lines in Michigan, the Provider shall provide access to its video service to a number of households equal to at least 25% of the households in the provider's telecommunication

- service area in Michigan within 3 years of the date it began providing video service under the Act and Agreement and to a number not less than 50% of these households within 6 years. **The video service Provider is not required to meet the 50% requirement in this paragraph until 2 years after at least 30% of the households with access to the Provider's video service subscribe to the service for 6 consecutive months.**
- D. The Provider may apply to the Franchising Entity, and in the case of paragraph C, the Commission, for a waiver of or for an extension of time to meet the requirements of this section if 1 or more of the following apply:
- i. The inability to obtain access to public and private rights-of-way under reasonable terms and conditions.
  - ii. Developments or buildings not being subject to competition because of existing exclusive service arrangements.
  - iii. Developments or buildings being inaccessible using reasonable technical solutions under commercial reasonable terms and conditions.
  - iv. Natural disasters
  - v. Factors beyond the control of the Provider
- E. The Franchising Entity or Commission may grant the waiver or extension only if the Provider has made substantial and continuous effort to meet the requirements of this section. If an extension is granted, the Franchising Entity or Commission shall establish a new compliance deadline. If a waiver is granted, the Franchising Entity or Commission shall specify the requirement or requirements waived.
- F. The Provider shall file an annual report with the Franchising Entity and the Commission regarding the progress that has been made toward compliance with paragraphs B and C.
- G. Except for satellite service, the provider may satisfy the requirements of this paragraph and Section 9 of the Act through the use of alternative technology that offers service, functionality, and content, which is demonstrably similar to that provided through the provider's video service system and may include a technology that does not require the use of any public right-of-way. The technology utilized to comply with the requirements of this section shall include local public, education, and government channels and messages over the emergency alert system as required under Paragraph II(E) of this Agreement.

#### **IV. Responsibility of the Franchising Entity**

- A. The Franchising Entity hereby grants authority to the Provider to provide Video Service in the Video Service area footprint, as described in this Agreement and Attachments, as well as the Act.
- B. The Franchising Entity hereby grants authority to the Provider to use and occupy the Public Rights-of-way in the delivery of Video Service, subject to the laws of the state of Michigan and the police powers of the Franchising Entity.
- C. The Franchising Entity shall notify the Provider as to whether the submitted Franchise Agreement is complete as required by the Act within 15 business days after the date that the Franchise Agreement is filed. If the Franchise Agreement is not complete, the Franchising Entity shall state in its notice the reasons the Franchise Agreement is incomplete. The Franchising Entity cannot declare an application to be incomplete because it may dispute whether or not the applicant has properly classified certain material as "confidential."
- D. The Franchising Entity shall have 30 days after the submission date of a complete Franchise Agreement to approve the agreement. If the Franchising Entity does not notify the Provider regarding the completeness of the Franchise Agreement or approve the Franchise Agreement within the time periods required under **Section 3(3) of the Act**, the Franchise Agreement shall be considered complete and the Franchise Agreement approved.
- i. If time has expired for the Franchising Entity to notify the Provider, The Provider shall send (via mail: certified or registered, or by fax) notice to the Franchising Entity and the Commission, using Attachment 3 of this Agreement.
- E. The Franchising Entity shall allow a Provider to install, construct, and maintain a video service or communications network within a public right-of-way and shall provide the provider with open, comparable, nondiscriminatory, and competitively neutral access to the public right-of-way.
- F. The Franchising Entity may not discriminate against a video service provider to provide video service for any of the following:
- i. The authorization or placement of a video service or communications network in public right-of-way.
  - ii. Access to a building owned by a governmental entity.
  - iii. A municipal utility pole attachment.
- G. The Franchising Entity may impose on a Provider a permit fee only to the extent it imposes such a fee on incumbent video providers, and any fee shall not exceed the actual, direct costs incurred by the Franchising Entity for issuing the relevant permit. A fee under this section shall not be levied if the Provider already has

paid a permit fee of any kind in connection with the same activity that would otherwise be covered by the permit fee under this section or is otherwise authorized by law or contract to place the facilities used by the Provider in the public right-of-way or for general revenue purposes.

- H. The Franchising Entity shall not require the provider to obtain any other franchise, assess any other fee or charge, or impose any other franchise requirement than is allowed under the Act and this Agreement. For purposes of this Agreement, a franchise requirement includes but is not limited to, a provision regulating rates charged by video service providers, requiring the video service providers to satisfy any build-out requirements, or a requirement for the deployment of any facilities or equipment.
- I. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Act, the Provider shall not be required to comply with, and the Franchising Entity may not impose or enforce, any mandatory build-out or deployment provisions, schedules, or requirements except as required by **Section 9 of the Act**.
- J. The Franchising Entity is subject to the penalties provided for under Section 14 of the Act.

#### V. Term

- A. This Franchise Agreement shall be for a period of 10 years from the date it is issued. The date it is issued shall be calculated either by (a) the date the Franchising Entity approved the Agreement, provided it did so within 30 days after the submission of a complete franchise agreement, or (b) the date the Agreement is deemed approved pursuant to **Section 3(3) of the Act**, if the Franchising Entity either fails to notify the Provider regarding the completeness of the Agreement or approve the Agreement within the time periods required under that subsection.
- B. Before the expiration of the initial Franchise Agreement or any subsequent renewals, the Provider may apply for an additional 10-year renewal under **Section 3(7) of the Act**.

#### VI. Fees

- A. A video service Provider shall calculate and pay an annual video service provider fee to the Franchising Entity. The fee shall be 1 of the following:
  - i. If there is an existing Franchise Agreement, an amount equal to the percentage of gross revenue paid to the Franchising Entity by the incumbent video Provider with the largest number of subscribers in the Franchising Entity.
  - ii. At the expiration of an existing Franchise Agreement or if there is no existing Franchise Agreement, an amount equal to the percentage of gross revenue as established by the Franchising Entity of \_\_\_\_\_% (percentage amount to be inserted by Franchising Entity which shall not exceed 5%) and shall be applicable to all providers
- B. The fee shall be due on a quarterly basis and paid within 45 days after the close of the quarter. Each payment shall include a statement explaining the basis for the calculation of the fee.
- C. The Franchising Entity shall not demand any additional fees or charges from a provider and shall not demand the use of any other calculation method other than allowed under the Act.
- D. For purposes of this Section, "gross revenues" means all consideration of any kind or nature, including, without limitation, cash, credits, property, and in-kind contributions received by the provider from subscribers for the provision of video service by the video service provider within the jurisdiction of the franchising entity.
  - 1. **Gross revenues shall include all of the following:**
    - i. All charges and fees paid by subscribers for the provision of video service, including equipment rental, late fees, insufficient funds fees, fees attributable to video service when sold individually or as part of a package or bundle, or functionally integrated, with services other than video service.
    - ii. Any franchise fee imposed on the Provider that is passed on to subscribers.
    - iii. Compensation received by the Provider for promotion or exhibition of any products or services over the video service.
    - iv. Revenue received by the Provider as compensation for carriage of video programming on that Provider's video service.
    - v. All revenue derived from compensation arrangements for advertising to the local franchise area.
    - vi. Any advertising commissions paid to an affiliated third party for video service advertising.
  - 2. **Gross revenues do not include any of the following:**
    - i. Any revenue not actually received, even if billed, such as bad debt net of any recoveries of bad debt.
    - ii. Refunds, rebates, credits, or discounts to subscribers or a municipality to the extent not already offset by subdivision (D)(i) and to the extent the refund, rebate, credit, or discount is attributable to the video service.

- iii. Any revenues received by the Provider or its affiliates from the provision of services or capabilities other than video service, including telecommunications services, information services, and services, capabilities, and applications that may be sold as part of a package or bundle, or functionality integrated, with video service.
  - iv. Any revenues received by the Provider or its affiliates for the provision of directory or internet advertising, including yellow pages, white pages, banner advertisement, and electronic publishing.
  - v. Any amounts attributable to the provision of video service to customers at no charge, including the provision of such service to public institutions without charge.
  - vi. Any tax, fee, or assessment of general applicability imposed on the customer or the transaction by a federal, state, or local government or any other governmental entity, collected by the Provider, and required to be remitted to the taxing entity, including sales and use taxes.
  - vii. Any forgone revenue from the provision of video service at no charge to any person, except that any forgone revenue exchanged for trades, barter, services, or other items of value shall be included in gross revenue.
  - viii. Sales of capital assets or surplus equipment.
  - ix. Reimbursement by programmers of marketing costs actually incurred by the Provider for the introduction of new programming.
  - x. The sale of video service for resale to the extent the purchaser certifies in writing that it will resell the service and pay a franchise fee with respect to the service.
- E. In the case of a video service that is bundled or integrated functionally with other services, capabilities, or applications, the portion of the video Provider's revenue attributable to the other services, capabilities, or applications shall be included in gross revenue unless the Provider can reasonably identify the division or exclusion of the revenue from its books and records that are kept in the regular course of business.
- F. Revenue of an affiliate shall be included in the calculation of gross revenues to the extent the treatment of the revenue as revenue of the affiliate has the effect of evading the payment of franchise fees which would otherwise be paid for video service.
- G. The Provider is entitled to a credit applied toward the fees due under **Section 6(1) of the Act** for all funds allocated to the Franchising Entity from annual maintenance fees paid by the provider for use of public rights-of-way, minus any property tax credit allowed under **Section 8 of the Metropolitan Extension Telecommunications Rights-of-Way Oversight Act (METRO Act)**, 2002 PA 48, MCL 484.3108. The credits shall be applied on a monthly pro rata basis beginning in the first month of each calendar year in which the Franchising Entity receives its allocation of funds. The credit allowed under this subsection shall be calculated by multiplying the number of linear feet occupied by the Provider in the public rights-of-way of the Franchising Entity by the lesser of 5 cents or the amount assessed under the **METRO Act**. The Provider is not eligible for a credit under this section unless the provider has taken all property tax credits allowed under the **METRO Act**.
- H. All determinations and computations made under this section shall be pursuant to generally accepted accounting principles.
- I. Any claims by a Franchising Entity that fees have not been paid as required under **Section 6 of the Act**, and any claims for refunds or other corrections to the remittance of the Provider shall be made within 3 years from the date the compensation is remitted.
- J. The Provider may identify and collect as a separate line item on the regular monthly bill of each subscriber an amount equal to the percentage established under **Section 6(1) of the Act**, applied against the amount of the subscriber's monthly bill.
- K. The Franchising Entity shall not demand any additional fees or charges from a Provider and shall not demand the use of any other calculation method other than allowed under the Act.

#### **VII. Public, Education, and Government (PEG) Channels**

- A. The video service Provider shall designate a sufficient amount of capacity on its network to provide for the same number of public, education, and government access channels that are in actual use on the incumbent video provider system on the **effective date of the Act** or as provided under **Section 4(14) of the Act**.
- B. Any public, education, or government channel provided under this section that is not utilized by the Franchising Entity for at least 8 hours per day for 3 consecutive months may no longer be made available to the Franchising Entity and may be programmed at the Provider's discretion. At such a time as the Franchising Entity can certify a schedule for at least 8 hours of daily programming for a period of 3 consecutive months, the Provider shall restore the previously reallocated channel.
- C. The Franchising Entity shall ensure that all transmissions, content, or programming to be retransmitted by a video service Provider is provided in a manner or form that is capable of being accepted and retransmitted by a Provider, without requirement for additional alteration or change in the content by the Provider, over the

- particular network of the Provider, which is compatible with the technology or protocol utilized by the Provider to deliver services.
- D. The person producing the broadcast is solely responsible for all content provided over designated public, education, or government channels. The video service Provider *shall not* exercise any editorial control over any programming on any channel designed for public, education, or government use.
  - E. The video service Provider is not subject to any civil or criminal liability for any program carried on any channel designated for public, education, or government use.
  - F. If a Franchising Entity seeks to utilize capacity pursuant to **Section 4(1) of the Act** or an agreement under **Section 13 of the Act** to provide access to video programming over one or more PEG channels, the Franchising Entity shall give the Provider a written request specifying the number of channels in actual use on the incumbent video provider's system or specified in the agreement entered into under **Section 13 of the Act**. The video service Provider shall have 90 days to begin providing access as requested by the Franchising Entity. The number and designation of PEG access channels shall be set forth in an addendum to this agreement effective 90 days after the request is submitted by the Franchising Entity.
  - G. A PEG channel shall only be used for noncommercial purposes.

#### VIII. PEG Fees

- A. The video service Provider shall also pay to the Franchising Entity as support for the cost of PEG access facilities and services an annual fee equal to one of the following options:
  - 1. If there is an existing Franchise on the effective date of the Act, the fee (enter the fee amount \_\_\_\_\_) paid to the Franchising Entity by the incumbent video Provider with the largest number of cable service subscribers in the Franchising Entity as determined by the existing Franchise Agreement;
  - 2. At the expiration of the existing Franchise Agreement, the amount required under (1) above, which is \_\_\_\_\_% of gross revenues. (The amount under (1) above is not to exceed 2% of gross revenues);
  - 3. If there is no existing Franchise Agreement, a percentage of gross revenues as established by the Franchising Entity and to be determined by a community need assessment, is \_\_\_\_\_% of gross revenues. (The percentage that is established by the Franchising Entity is not to exceed 2% of gross revenues.); and
  - 4. An amount agreed to by the Franchising Entity and the video service Provider.
- B. The fee required by this section shall be applicable to all providers, pursuant to Section 6(9) of the Act.
- C. The fee shall be due on a quarterly basis and paid within 45 days after the close of the quarter. Each payment shall include a statement explaining the basis for the calculation of the fee.
- D. All determinations and computations made under this section shall be pursuant to generally accepted accounting principles.
- E. Any claims by a Franchising Entity that fees have not been paid as required under **Section 6 of the Act**, and any claims for refunds or other corrections to the remittance of the Provider shall be made within 3 years from the date the compensation is remitted.
- F. The Provider may identify and collect as a separate line item on the regular monthly bill of each subscriber an amount equal to the percentage established under **Section 6(8) of the Act**, applied against the amount of the subscriber's monthly bill.
- G. The Franchising Entity shall not demand any additional fees or charges from a Provider and shall not demand the use of any other calculation method other than allowed under the Act.

#### IX. Audits

- A. No more than every 24 months, a Franchising Entity may perform reasonable audits of the video service Provider's calculation of the fees paid under **Section 6 of the Act** to the Franchising Entity during the preceding 24-month period only. All records reasonably necessary for the audits shall be made available by the Provider at the location where the records are kept in the ordinary course of business. The Franchising Entity and the video service Provider shall each be responsible for their respective costs of the audit. Any additional amount due verified by the Franchising Entity shall be paid by the Provider within 30 days of the Franchising Entity's submission of invoice for the sum. If the sum exceeds 5% of the total fees which the audit determines should have been paid for the 24-month period, the Provider shall pay the Franchising Entity's reasonable costs of the audit.
- B. Any claims by a Franchising Entity that fees have not been paid as required under **Section 6 of the Act**, and any claims for refunds or other corrections to the remittance of the provider shall be made within 3 years from the date the compensation is remitted.

**X. Termination and Modification**

This Franchise Agreement issued by a Franchising Entity may be terminated or the video service area footprint may be modified, except as provided under **Section 9 of the Act**, by the Provider by submitting notice to the Franchising Entity. The Provider will use Attachment 2, when notifying the Franchising Entity.

**XI. Transferability**

This Franchise Agreement issued by a Franchising Entity or an existing franchise of an incumbent video service Provider is fully transferable to any successor in interest to the Provider to which it is initially granted. A notice of transfer shall be filed with the Franchising Entity within 15 days of the completion of the transfer. The Provider will use Attachment 2, when notifying the Franchising Entity. The successor in interest will assume the rights and responsibilities of the original provider and will also be required to complete their portion of the Transfer Agreement located within Attachment 2.

**XII. Change of Information**

If any of the information contained in the Franchise Agreement changes, the Provider shall timely notify the Franchising Entity. The Provider will use Attachment 2, when notifying the Franchising Entity.

**XIII. Confidentiality**

Pursuant to Section 11 of the Act: Except under the terms of a mandatory protective order, trade secrets and commercial or financial information designated as such and submitted under the Act to the Franchising Entity or Commission are exempt from the Freedom of Information Act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 to 15.246 and **MUST BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL**.

- A. The Provider may specify which items of information should be deemed "confidential." It is the responsibility of the provider to clearly identify and segregate any confidential information submitted to the franchising entity with the following information:  
    "[insert PROVIDER'S NAME]  
    [CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION]"
- B. The Franchising Entity receiving the information so designated as confidential is required (a) to protect such information from public disclosure, (b) exempt such information from any response to a FOIA request, and (c) make the information available only to and for use only by such local officials as are necessary to approve the franchise agreement or perform any other task for which the information is submitted.
- C. Any Franchising Entity which disputes whether certain information submitted to it by a provider is entitled to confidential treatment under the Act may apply to the Commission for resolution of such a dispute. Unless and until the Commission determines that part or all of the information is not entitled to confidential treatment under the Act, the Franchising Entity shall keep the information confidential.

**XIV. Complaints/Customer Service**

- A. The Provider shall establish a dispute resolution process for its customers. Provider shall maintain a local or toll-free telephone number for customer service contact.
- B. The Provider shall be subjected to the penalties, as described under **Section 14 of the Act**, and the Franchising Entity and Provider may be subjected to the dispute process as described in **Section 10(3) of the Act**.
- C. Each Provider shall notify its customers of the dispute resolution process required under **Section 10 of the Act**.
- D. In connection with providing video services to the subscribers, a provider shall not do any act prohibited by Section 10(1)(a-f) of the Act. The Commission may enforce compliance to the extent that the activities are not covered by **Section 2(3)(l) in the Act**.

**XV. Notices**

Any notices to be given under this Franchise Agreement shall be in writing and delivered to a Party personally, by facsimile or by certified, registered, or first-class mail, with postage prepaid and return receipt requested, or by a nationally recognized overnight delivery service, addressed as follows:

*If to the Franchising Entity:*  
(must provide street address)

*If to the Provider:*  
(must provide street address)

City of [insert NAME of City/Village/Township]:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Attn: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Attn: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Or such other addresses or facsimile numbers as the Parties may designate by written notice from time to time.

**XVI. Miscellaneous**

- A. Governing Law. This Franchise Agreement shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, applicable Federal laws and laws of the State of Michigan.
- B. The parties to this Franchise Agreement are subject to all valid and enforceable provisions of the Act.
- C. Counterparts. This Agreement may be signed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which together shall constitute on and the same agreement.
- D. Power to Enter. Each Party hereby warrants to the other Party that it has the requisite power and authority to enter into this Franchise Agreement and to perform according to the terms hereof.
- E. The Provider and Franchising Entity are subject to the provisions of 2006 Public Act 480.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties, by their duly authorized representatives, have executed this Franchise Agreement.

City of [insert NAME of City/Village/Township], a Michigan Municipal Corporation

[insert NAME of Video Service Provider], a [insert STATE of incorporation/formation] corporation doing business as [insert DBA name]

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

**FRANCHISE AGREEMENT** *(Franchising Entity to Complete)*

Date submitted:
Date completed and approved:



[Option A: for Providers that Options B and C are not applicable, a description based on a geographic information system digital boundary meeting or exceeding national map accuracy standards]

[Option B: for Providers with 1,000,000 or more access lines in Michigan using telecommunication facilities to provide Video Service, a description based on entire wire centers or exchanges located in the Franchising Entity]

[Option C: for an Incumbent Video Service Provider, it satisfies this requirement by allowing the Franchising Entity to seek right-of-way information comparable to that required by a permit under the METRO Act as set forth in its last cable franchise or consent agreement from the Franchising Entity entered into before the effective date of the Act]

Pursuant to Section 2(3)(d) of the Act, if the Provider is not an incumbent video Provider, provide the date on which the Provider expects to provide video services in the area identified under Section 2(3)(e) (the Video Service Area Footprint).

Date:

**For All Applications:**

**Verification  
(Provider)**

I, [insert NAME], of lawful age, and being first duly sworn, now states: As an officer of the Provider, I am authorized to do and hereby make the above commitments. I further affirm that all statements made above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Name and Title (printed):	
Signature:	Date:

(Franchising Entity)

[insert NAME of City/Village/Township], a Michigan municipal corporation

By \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTACHMENT 2**

**UNIFORM VIDEO SERVICE LOCAL FRANCHISE AGREEMENT  
(Pursuant to 2006 Public Act 480)  
(Form must be typed)**

**Affected Franchise Agreement(s):**

Date:  Type of Change (Check one):  Amended  Termination  Transfer

Current information on record:

Applicant's Name:		
Address 1:		
Address 2:		Phone:
City:	State:	Zip:
Federal I.D. No. (FEIN):		

**For Amended Agreement(s):**

Agreement that is being Amended:

Types of Amendments:

A. Change in Legal Name or assume business name, etc: (Approval from Secretary of State must be attached.)

1. Existing Name:
2. New Name:

B. Change in Principal Business Address or Name of Person Authorized to Receive Notice:

1. New Principal/business office address:

Address 1:	
Address 2:	
City, State, Zip:	
Email:	
Phone:	Fax:

2. New Name and Title of person authorized to receive notice:

Name:	Title:
Address 1:	
Address 2:	
City, State, Zip:	
Email:	
Phone:	Fax:

C. Increase/Decrease in the Territory:

1. <u>Reason for the change:</u>
2. <u>Description of change:</u>
3. <u>List the new unit(s) and unincorporated area(s) to be served under this change:</u>

D. Additional changes (please attach any additional changes that have been made, which have not been previously recorded in this Attachment):

**For Termination:**

Effective date of Termination:
Agreement associated with the Termination:
Identify the number of customers covered by the Agreement being terminated:
Identify the method used to notify the Franchising Entity of the termination of service (Attach a copy of the notification):

**For Transfer of Agreement(s):**

(A transfer will require the new franchise holder or new controlling parent company to complete the information for the "New Agreement Holder")

<i>Name of Current Franchise Holder:</i>	
Contact Name:	
Address 1:	
Address 2:	
City, State, Zip:	
Email:	
Phone:	Fax:
Federal I.D. No. (FEIN):	

ATTACHMENT 2



[Option C, for an Incumbent Video Service Provider, it satisfies this requirement by allowing the Franchising Entity to seek right-of-way information comparable to that required by a permit under the METRO Act as set forth in its last cable franchise or consent agreement from the Franchising Entity entered into before the effective date of the Act]]

Explain the transaction that defines the transferee as a successor in interest (Attachments are acceptable):

[Empty box for explaining the transaction]

Effective date of Transfer:

(Per 2006 Public Act 480: A notice of transfer shall be filed with the Franchising Entity within 15 days of the completion of the transfer)

Agreement associated with the Transfer:

For All Applications:

**Verification  
(Provider)**

I, [insert NAME], of lawful age, and being first duly sworn, now state: As an officer of the Provider, I am authorized to do and hereby make the above commitments. I further affirm that all statements made above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Name and Title (printed):

Signature:

Date:

(Franchising Entity)

City of [insert NAME of City/Village/Township], a Michigan municipal corporation

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTACHMENT 2

**ATTACHMENT 3**

**UNIFORM VIDEO SERVICE LOCAL FRANCHISE AGREEMENT**

(Form must be typed)

THE UNIFORM VIDEO SERVICE LOCAL FRANCHISE AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is considered completed and approved on this date [insert month & day], 20[insert two digit year], pursuant to 2006 PA 480, Section 3(3) between City of [insert NAME of City/Village/Township], a Michigan municipal corporation (the "Franchising Entity"), and [insert NAME of Video Franchising Entity], a [insert NAME of State of incorporation/formation] corporation doing business as [insert DBA name].

*Pursuant to Section 3(3) of the Act, "A Franchising Entity shall have 30 days after the submission date of a complete franchise agreement to approve the agreement. If the Franchising Entity does not notify the Provider regarding the completeness of the franchise agreement or approve the franchise agreement within the time periods required under this subsection, the franchise agreement shall be considered complete and the franchise agreement approved."*

The Uniform Video Service Local Franchise Agreement was first filed on [insert month & day], 20[insert two digit year], and has exceeded the 30 day submission date (pursuant to Section 3(3) of the Act) on [insert month & day], 20[insert two digit year]. Attachment 3 is being sent as a notification of a Franchise Agreement that is considered completed and approved to both City of [insert NAME of City/Village/Township], a Michigan municipal corporation (the "Franchising Entity"), as well as the Michigan Public Service Commission.

**(Provider)**

I, [insert NAME], of lawful age, and being first duly sworn, now states: As an officer of the Provider, I am authorized to do and hereby make the above commitments. I further affirm that all statements made above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Name and Title (printed):	
Signature:	Date:



E

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

CITY OF DEARBORN, a Municipal corporation,  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN,  
a Municipal corporation, CITY OF WARREN,  
a Municipal corporation, CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
OF BLOOMFIELD, a Municipal corporation and  
SHARON GILLETTE,

Case No. 08-10156

Hon. Victoria A. Roberts \_\_\_\_\_

Plaintiffs,

vs.

COMCAST OF MICHIGAN III, INC.,  
a Delaware corporation, and  
COMCAST OF THE SOUTH, INC.,  
a Colorado corporation,

Defendants.

**RESPONSE TO DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS**

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**CONCISE STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE PRESENTED**

Whether Plaintiff municipalities, as the local franchising authorities and parties to franchise contracts with Defendant Comcast,<sup>1</sup> and Comcast subscriber Plaintiff Gillette may bring an action challenging Comcast's planned modification of PEG channels based upon allegations that the modification violates obligations under the franchises and state and federal law to, *inter alia*, (a) deliver PEG channels on a non-discriminatory basis; (b) provide PEG channels as part of basic service; and also violates federal and state laws and regulations incorporated into the franchise which are designed to protect consumers against unreasonable rates and unfair and deceptive practices.

**CONTROLLING OR MOST APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY  
FOR THE RELIEF SOUGHT**

1. For motions to dismiss: Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6); *Lambert v. Hartman*, 517 F.3d 433, 439 (6th Cir. 2008).
2. With respect to the Defendants' obligations to deliver PEG channels so that they are viewable by all subscribers and part of basic service, 47 U.S.C. §§531, esp. 531(e), and 47 U.S.C. § 541(b)(3)(D) (recognizing carriage of PEG signals involves common carrier obligations); 47 U.S.C. § 543(b)(7) (PEG on basic service); and the legislative history with respect to those provisions; *Denver Area Educational Telecommunications Consortium v. F.C.C.*, 518 U.S. 727, 760-61 (1996).
3. With regard to the continuing obligation of Defendants to comply with franchise obligations regarding the use of the channels, 47 U.S.C. § 531(c) (franchising authority may enforce PEG use requirements in a franchise) M.C.L. 484.3302(3)(h) (state franchise

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<sup>1</sup> "Comcast" refers to all defendants in this matter.

subject to valid federal regulations and statutes); *City of Benton Harbor v. Mich. Fuel & Light Co.*, 250 Mich. 614 (1930) (franchises interpreted in favor of public).

4. With respect to the obligations to consumers, 47 U.S.C. § 543 (local authority to regulate basic service and equipment rates and prevent rate evasions); 47 U.S.C. § 552 (local enforcement of consumer protection standards, including FCC-established minimum standards); minimum federal consumer standards, including duty to provide notice, 47 C.F.R. § 76.1602-03; M.C.L. 445.903, 445.911 (prohibiting unfair or deceptive practices and authorizing consumer action to prevent those actions).
5. With respect to the authority of Plaintiffs to enforce the obligations described above, see in addition to the general law of contracts, the provisions cited above and 47 U.S.C. § 401(b); 47 U.S.C. § 531(c) (right to enforce PEG obligations).

#### INTRODUCTION

Comcast's Motion To Dismiss and Memorandum of Law add no substance to the arguments that the Court heard and ruled upon in January. Comcast generally restates, in various ways, its central claim: that absent specific restrictions in a franchise, Comcast is free to deliver PEG channels in whatever form, and with whatever charges and conditions it chooses to attach. Under the Comcast theory, unless a franchise prohibits it from doing so, it could charge any price to a consumer that wished to receive PEG channels; it could deliver them in any format, and in a manner that required a consumer to obtain special equipment; it could charge for them without providing the consumer the ability to receive them; and it could even refuse to deliver the channels unless a subscriber made a special request. Comcast's view is not the law. While it is true that a franchise need not require an operator to set aside channels for PEG, where PEG is required (as is the case under Michigan law) it is not necessary for a franchise (or for the state

law) to specifically prohibit what Comcast seeks to do here. That is because as the courts have recognized, federal law establishes what it means to “designate” channel capacity for public, educational and government use, and that law imposes common carrier obligations on the operator, cemented by a specific federal command at 47 U.S.C. § 531(e) that prohibits the operator from exercising any “editorial control” over PEG channels. The duty established by federal law requires Comcast to deliver whatever PEG channels are required in a franchise without discrimination, special charges or burden to either the programmer of the PEG channels, or the viewer. That duty has been violated.

In addition, the franchises at issue here actually do prohibit Comcast from taking the actions planned here. Comcast’s argument depends on the assumption that these local franchise requirements can be ignored because state law renders them unenforceable – a claim that this court rejected in ruling on Plaintiffs’ motion for a preliminary injunction and temporary restraining order. Opinion and Order, January 14, 2008 (“*Order*”), pp. 5-6. Comcast’s motion provides no ground for changing course on that issue. Finally, to protect consumers, federal and state law incorporated into the franchises limit Comcast’s right to price, bundle and offer services, and Comcast has violated those limits.

Thus, to a large degree, Comcast’s claims boil down to procedural arguments, the primary one being that plaintiffs have no right to bring an action under any of the Cable Act provisions cited. In the first place, this reflects a fundamental misunderstanding of this case, which does not depend on the authority of Plaintiffs to enforce the federal law provisions cited. The contracts between Plaintiffs and Comcast require Comcast to provide PEG channels in a manner consistent with state and federal law; as the contracting parties, Plaintiffs have a right to enforce the contractual promises made to them. But in fact, federal and state law secure local