



February 17, 2009

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CSR-8126 (ACM *et al.*), CSR-8127 (City of Lansing, Michigan), and CSR-8128 (City of Dearborn, Michigan *et al.*) – MB Docket No. 09-13

To Whom It May Concern:

Access Osceola is the public, educational and government access channel for the City of Kissimmee and portions of Osceola County, Florida. The channel provides citizens with exclusive access to City Commission, County Commission and School Board meetings. Additionally, this is a resource for community information such as local and statewide elections, political debates, emergency bulletins, community visioning, etc. The 2007 cancelation of the franchise agreement with the local cable carrier Bright House Networks, resulted in Access Osceola being moved from the analog basic cable channel 9 to the low level digital channel 199. This has created a tremendous shift in our viewership as the higher channel is not as easily accessible to most cable subscribers. Additionally, the move has raised the issue of financial hardship as subscribers would be required to rent the digital cable box in order to receive channel 199.

The concept of public, educational and government access channels was to make it convenient for communities to provide essential information to its citizens without the added cost of increasing their cable service in order to receive the channel. Many of our citizens have expressed their anger, frustration and disappointment in no longer being able to watch Access Osceola as they do not have digital cable or cannot afford to upgrade their cable service.

It is particularly disheartening to know that a vital channel, such as Access Osceola that provides substantive information 24 hours and seven days a week, has been replaced by a scrolling program line-up on channel 9. There is no value in this as compared to the vast topics covered by Access Osceola to include information from state government and community events to transportation planning and local talk shows.

Public Information Office

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The City of Kissimmee supports the efforts being taken to preserve the public, educational and government access channels as they have always been provided—thwarting attempts by AT&T, Comcast, Bright House and others to make them difficult to access, difficult to view and difficult to afford, especially in these tough economic times.

The FCC should take action to hold cable companies accountable for restoring PEG channels to the lowest level basic cable line-up, in turn giving citizens access to the affordable resource that provides community programming. If PEG channels cannot be restored to the lowest level basic cable line-up, the FCC should establish a requirement for the telecommunication industry to provide PEG channels within the range of basic cable channels.

It is imperative the FCC do its part to save PEG channels in the City of Kissimmee and each of our nation's communities.

Regards,

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