

The following comments are submitted by George S. Brown, Deputy City Manager, City of Boca Raton, 201 W. Palmetto Park Road, Boca Raton, FL 33432-3730

The City of Boca Raton is in full support of preserving public, educational and governmental access (PEG) channels as they are currently provided in the lowest tier of cable channels. The City would strongly object to moving PEG channels to higher channel tiers requiring a converter box or to a web portal channel. Such a change in policy would disenfranchise a segment of the City's population by denying them access to regularly broadcast City meetings, educational programming and numerous bulletin board items as well as emergency management information. For many people, PEG channels are an important connection to their local government. During emergencies, Boca Raton's PEG channel functions as an important lifeline, providing critical information to residents. In addition, the cost of a converter box will mean that a large number of residents who cannot afford such a luxury will no longer be able to view a PEG channel relegated to the higher tier. The position of the City of Boca Raton is that the public good is best served by preserving the current policy.