CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING
SUPPORT OF LOCAL CONTROL OF CABLE FRANCHISING AND
OPPOSITION TO MICHIGAN SENATE BILL 1157 AND HOUSE BILL 5895

WHEREAS, AT&T and Verizon have been actively advocating across the country that local cable franchise agreements be eliminated, and

WHEREAS, AT&T is blaming Michigan communities as the reason they cannot enter into the cable/video business, while local communities and local residents including Bloomfield Township want more cable competition and would quickly allow AT&T into their community, AT&T has refused to negotiate a franchise with any city, village, or township, and

WHEREAS, legislation introduced in the Michigan Legislature, House Bill 5895 and Senate Bill 1157 would:

• Eliminate local cable franchising and require Secretary of State to grant a statewide franchise.
• Allow any cable or video provider to stop serving any area in a city, village, or townships based on out-of-state corporate economic decisions. Current law guarantees service to all local residents. Cable and phone companies could turn off service to neighborhoods because they are not profitable, basically ‘cherry-picking’ and ‘redlining’ neighborhoods, and

WHEREAS, local government participation in the cable franchising process ensures build-out requirements so that all residents irrespective of age, race, education, or income level, receive the same service, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Charter Township of Bloomfield opposes Senate Bill 1157 and House Bill 5895 and urges our state legislators to oppose the bills.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bloomfield Township Board of Trustees hereby affirms its support for the current local cable franchise agreement system and urges federal and state policymakers to only support legislation that:

1. Maintains local control of the cable franchise process;
2. Ensures build-out requirements so that providers cannot “cherry-pick” customers;
3. Preserves local governments’ ability to manage the public rights-of-way;
4. Ensures no reduction in direct revenues and protects PEG revenues as well as the Township’s current level of services provided to the Township’s residents; and
5. Preserves the Michigan Metro Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our state legislators in Lansing, our Congressional representatives in Washington, D.C., Governor Granholm and the Michigan Township Association.

ADOPTED this 10th day of April, 2006