

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP IS OPEN-FOR-CABLE/VIDEO BUSINESS, AND GUARANTEES THAT WE WILL HAVE A FRANCHISE AGREEMENT READY FOR NEW CABLE/VIDEO PROVIDERS TO CONSIDER WITHIN DAYS OF A FORMAL REQUEST.

WHEREAS, cities, villages and townships have a long and very successful history of supporting the introduction of new cable/video services – a successful deployment made possible in large part by the current system of local cable franchising; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Bloomfield currently has a non-exclusive franchise agreement with Comcast for cable television services and the Township may award additional cable franchises upon application, qualification and compliance with applicable ordinances; and

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 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, local communities' 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

WHEREAS, Bloomfield Township believes that all residents should have access to the same choice of cable/video service.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Charter Township of Bloomfield is open-for-cable/video business and can guarantee that within days of a formal request we will have a franchise agreement ready for any new cable/video providers' consideration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AT&T and any other cable provider interested in operating a cable system in Bloomfield Township may apply for a cable system franchise in Bloomfield Township upon receipt of a copy of this Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the applicant and its submission include a commitment to enter into the same franchise agreement terms as currently exist with the Township's present cable provider (Comcast) and otherwise qualify and comply with applicable ordinances, the Township is willing to take the necessary steps to grant one or more additional cable television system franchises in the Township upon such terms and compliance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk is hereby directed to send copies of this Resolution and the Township's existing cable franchise agreement and ordinance to the chief executive officer of AT&T, and to make such materials available to any other provider that requests same or expresses an interest in operating a cable television system in the Charter Township of Bloomfield.

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 are not able to "cherry-pick" customers, or stops current cable providers from shutting down service to current cable service areas;
3. Ensures no reduction in direct revenues and protects PEG revenues as well as the Township's current level of public broadcasting and current level of services provided to the Township's residents; and
4. Preserves Michigan's 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 Municipal League.

ADOPTED this 10th day of April, 2006