



RUTHANNE FULLER
MAYOR

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June 2, 2022

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Councilors:

I respectfully submit this docket item to this Honorable Council authorizing the distribution of \$200,000 from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund (the "Fund") to the Newton Communications Access Center, Inc. ("NewTV"). These funds will be used by NewTV to maintain a high level of services, including governmental services here at City Hall, during this period of declining cable TV revenues.

The single payment of \$200,000 from the Fund to NewTV will allow the station to balance their FY23 budget, and support staffing, fixed expenses, and governmental services including meeting coverage. Over the past 24 months, the NewTV team has increased coverage of government meetings by 300%. To provide this level of service, NewTV will be purchasing additional AV equipment, enhancing data storage and commercial internet connectivity, and upgrading their website and streaming data packs to help the residents of Newton stay informed.

The City of Newton derives revenues from franchise fees and capital payments made by Comcast, RCN and Verizon. These are allocated between the City and NewTV pursuant to a grant agreement between the City, acting through its Mayor as the cable license Issuing Authority (the "City") and NewTV dated July 23, 2018. NewTV receives eighty percent (80%) of these franchise fee revenues and forty percent (40%) of these capital payments.

On July 11, 2017, the City accepted G.L.c. 44, §53F¾, which established a separate revenue fund known as the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund (the "Fund"). Monies in the Fund are derived solely from the City's portions of franchise fee and capital payments made by the three cable operators in accordance with their franchise agreements. By statute, monies in the Fund shall only be appropriated for cable-related purposes consistent with the franchise agreements, including but not limited to (i) support of public, educational or governmental access cable television services; (ii) monitoring compliance of the cable operators with their franchise agreements; or (iii) preparing for renewal of the franchise agreements.

The \$200,000 in this docket item is consistent with the use of PEG Funds to support public, educational and governmental access cable television services.

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 CITY CLERK
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Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruthanne Fuller". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor