



## CITY OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Michael V. O'Brien  
City Manager

cm2008may16105643

Attachment for Item #

7.4 A

May 20, 2008

TO THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

COUNCILORS:

As you know, the City of Worcester has renewed its cable contract with Charter Communications. Upon completion of the Renewal Cable Television License, I directed my Cable Television Advisory Committee to further review and evaluate the needs of Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) Access entities in light of the level of funding provided by the License and report on best practices for PEG entities. The results of this process will serve as the basis for my recommendations for funding allocation levels and contract terms with PEG entities.

The Cable Television Advisory Committee is in the process of researching best practices, determining the specific capital needs of each entity, recommending contract terms and length of contract, performance standards and strategies to ensure financial accountability. This analysis includes review of the contract with the public access television provider, WCCA, Inc., which will form the basis of the upcoming contract negotiations. In the interim, I have ensured that funding for public access operations continues without interruption. Pursuant to the first quarter payment previously tendered, WCCA, Inc. has been fully funded through June 15, 2008.

Given the importance of the Cable Television Advisory Committee's research and recommendations to the overall allocation process, and the reality that finalizing a new contract with WCCA, Inc. prior to June 15<sup>th</sup> is unlikely, I have decided to extend the contract with WCCA, Inc to provide continued funding through September 15, 2008,



although I fully expect that a new contract will be in place before then. This extended period will provide the Cable Television Advisory Committee and my administration with a reasonable amount of time to conduct the necessary due diligence, finalize recommendations for funding allocations, and negotiate a new contract. This due diligence period is essential to ensuring the interests of our residents are protected, and to addressing the needs of each Public, Educational and Government Access (PEG) entity. Once this review has concluded, I will be fully prepared to negotiate a new contract with WCCA, Inc.

I am committed to conducting this process in a timely and transparent manner and will keep the City Council apprised of our progress in the coming months.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. O'Brien', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael V. O'Brien  
City Manager