

December 13, 2006

Press Release

## Research Bureau Gives City Wrong Numbers

The Worcester Regional Research Bureau's recent report, "Cable TV: Get With the Program," includes a table in which the numbers given for support of access television are wrong.

"The numbers for five cities that we called are off by two hundred thousand to over one million dollars," said Mauro DePasquale, Executive Director of WCCA TV 13. "In three instances they said that Public, Educational and Government access channels combined received amounts that were lower than the amount just for Public access only, in that particular city."

WCCA made phone calls to Boston, Brookline, Fort Worth, Dayton and Grand Rapids and spoke with executive directors of access centers as well as cable regulators.

"We didn't just speak to the access people, we also spoke to the city regulators. There was a certain amount of surprise on behalf of the regulators in Fort Worth and Boston regarding the WRRB's report on their cities," said De Pasquale, "They felt they had supplied WRRB with all the information and were surprised it was reported differently."

In the case of Fort Worth, WRRB only reported what access television receives for capital and equipment in a grant directly from the cable operator, it did not report that Fort Worth access receives one million dollars in operational funding from the city.

Boston's figures left out a capital grant and an additional grant from the city to the Public access center for one million dollars to go for a new building.

Grand Rapids numbers were underreported by over one million dollars.

Comparing these cities and the support they provide for Public access through franchise fees and capital grants, WCCA TV 13's budget should be anywhere from almost six hundred thousand to nine hundred thousand, if it were funded at the same level as these five cities.

"It's not just about money, it's also about services. We provide as good or better services and have as much or more programming on our channel as the five we looked at," said Pasquale. "WRRB needs to re-do their research before they make recommendations that the city cut our budget by two-thirds and next time, try to present accurate numbers."

For additional questions Mr.DePasquale can be reached at WCCA TV 13 at 508-755-1880.

*Correct numbers are attached.*

**Comparison of Worcester Regional Research Bureau Findings With Actual Numbers**

<b>Comparison Cities</b>	<b>Number of Subscribers</b>	<b>Research Bureau PEG Amount</b>	<b>True Total PEG Amount Received</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>True Public Access Only Amount</b>	<b>Per Subscriber Per Year For Public Access</b>	<b>What WCCA Would Receive at that Subscriber Amount</b>
<b>Fort Worth (1)</b>	60,000	\$744,000	\$1,744,000 (2)	\$1,000,000	\$872,000 (3)	\$14.50	\$696,000
<b>Grand Rapids (4)</b>	45,000	\$560,000	\$1,600,000	\$1,040,000	\$659,561	\$14.60	\$700,800
<b>Dayton (5)</b>	32,000	\$440,000	\$800,000	\$360,000	\$600,000	\$18.75	\$900,000
<b>Brookline (6)</b>	19,000	\$400,000	\$610,000	\$210,000	\$305,000 (7)	\$16.05	\$770,400
<b>Boston (8)</b>	145,000 (9)	\$1,700,000	\$2,000,000 (10)	\$300,000	\$1,642,000 + \$1,000,000 (11) this year for cap/equipment	\$11.94 (12)	\$573,120

## Footnotes

1. Randy Westerman, Manager, Cable Services. Mr. Westerman said he had tried to tell the Research Bureau that the \$744,000 was only for capital and equipment, but he felt they didn't understand. Fort Worth also receives an additional \$1,000,000 for operations.
2. Research Bureau only reported yearly capital and equipment funds (as required by TX law at 1%), it did not report operational funding provided by the city.
3. Fort Worth runs both Public and Government, splitting the total amount by two, we can assume Public receives this amount.
4. Laurie Cirivello, Executive Director, Grand Rapids Community Media
5. Rick Hayes, Executive Director, Dayton Access Television. Randy Bellinger, Station Manager, City of Dayton.
6. Thomas Bellotti, Executive Director, Brookline Access Television.
7. Brookline runs both P & G together, splitting the total amount by two, we can assume Public receives this amount.
8. Curtis Henderson, Executive Director, Boston Neighborhood Network. \$1 mil grant in addition to franchise fees, was received in 1999.
9. Subscriber numbers taken from the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors Membership Directory, 2006.
10. Mike Lynch, Director of Cable Communications. This amount is franchise fees to PEG only. Not capital, equipment grants.
11. City gave Public access \$1mil for building, equipment.
12. Yearly amount + \$1mil from city, amortizing that \$1mil over 10 years at \$100,000 per year. Franchise is 10 years in length.