



December 4, 2015

Steve Holmes
Vice President, Government Affairs
Comcast Cable, West Division
15815 25th Avenue West
Lynnwood, Washington 98104

Dear Mr. Holmes,

We appreciate the opportunity to work with you on a new 10 year franchise to allow Comcast to continue selling cable television service in the City of Seattle through 2026. We appreciate the community benefits Comcast provided as part of our agreement, such as free cable modem internet service to 600 community organizations. We recognize the benefits proposed for Seattle exceed the benefits provided in other cities that recently negotiated Comcast franchises.

That said, we were disappointed to learn of the franchise agreed to between Comcast and the City of Philadelphia, announced on Thursday, December 3, 2015. Specifically, Comcast made a large commitment to the people of Philadelphia to increase internet access to low-income residents of the city, provide discounted access to seniors and all low-income households, and increase digital equity. Affordability and equity are issues that are central to the City of Seattle, and we continued to press for those values during our negotiations. Having seen the commitment towards equity and affordability in Philadelphia, we believe the people of Seattle deserve the same level of commitment from Comcast.

The City will hold consideration of Council Bill 118549, which would approve the Comcast Franchise agreement, until Seattle's agreement is significantly improved. This vote was originally scheduled for a final vote on Monday, December 7, 2015. We have directed the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) to work with your team to identify additional opportunities to lower the cost of Comcast's internet service for those with low incomes, thus increasing internet access, and to identify opportunities to further enhance digital equity in our City.

We ask for your help reaching a timely resolution.

Sincerely,


Edward B. Murray
Mayor, City of Seattle


Bruce A. Harrell
Councilmember, City of Seattle

cc: Seattle City Councilmembers
Michael Mattmiller, Chief Technology Officer, City of Seattle

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