



Agenda Item Report

Meeting Type: Common Council

Meeting Date: March 3, 2025

Item Title: Consider and take action on internet segregation for Cablecast broadcast units

Submitted By: David Bennett, Communications & Economic Development Coordinator

Detailed Description of Subject Matter:

The Cable Commission was made aware of an ongoing issue regarding Payment Card Information System (PCI) compliance checks that have been linked to their Cablecast broadcast units. The units are constantly poking holes in the City's firewall in order to reflect the video server content for online distribution and for live streaming City meetings. The issue arose due to improvements in cybersecurity and increasingly stringent standards for PCI firms. This has caused the PCI checks to fail for the Recreation department and will bleed over into other PCI applications the City and its departments wish to use.

Staff have worked with Rhyme to utilize several solutions that have not solved the issue. As a result, Rhyme has suggested unplugging the Cablecast units from the City network. The impact is that the local cable channels may not function on cable TV and Roku. The City currently saves a copy of its meetings to YouTube and links those videos to its website. The City has the capability to stream live meetings to YouTube if needed. In order to have the local cable channel function on cable TV and Roku, Rhyme has proposed a segregated network solution for the Cablecast units to be connected to. This would include an initial cost of \$6,165.08 and a recurring cost of over \$2,800 annually. This solution entails creating a separate internet and security that would be paid for by the cable franchise fund. It would initially be paid through the cable fund's capital equipment line item and then require the elimination of the part-time Production Specialist position beginning with the 2026 budget to cover recurring costs.

There is concern about the long-term viability of cable TV as the industry has faced rapid decline and franchise fees are decreasing. Additionally, the FCC is looking to have cable TV companies transition to new broadcast standards that may omit our local channel carriage. Finally, our local channels are not part of any streaming services offered by Charter with no plans by Charter to add them.

List all Supporting Documentation Attached:

Rhyme IT Equipment Pricing

Charter Internet Pricing

Cable Commission Minutes from 2-24-2025

2024 Cable Industry Reporting

Action Requested of Council:

Discussion and take potential action regarding internet segregation for the Cablecast broadcast units