



January 7, 2025

**TO: THE CITY OF SPRING LAKE PARK**

**RE: RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR MODERNIZING PEG FUNDING**

Enclosed, please find for the council's review and approval a resolution supporting the Minnesota Association of Community Telecommunications Administrators (MACTA) efforts to modernize public, education, and government (PEG) programming/public access funding.

North Metro TV and other PEG TV stations face a challenging future as traditional revenue streams decline. MACTA, along with the League of Minnesota Cities, the League of Women Voters, and other organizations, are pursuing multiple avenues to modernize that funding at the state legislature. Municipal support for these efforts is extremely important and influential.

Possible solutions include:

- The Equal Access to Broadband Bill: This is the bill that MACTA pursued at the state legislature last year. It would allow cities to franchise wireline broadband providers and to impose a franchise fee on providers for using the public rights-of-way. The franchise would allow for oversight over broadband companies and require build out for an entire franchise area. The requirements would be similar to those in current cable franchises.
- A General Fund Request: MACTA is working to draft a bill requesting an amount equal to one dollar for every state resident from the State General Fund. Since not every city in the state is covered by a PEG station, MACTA currently estimates that the PEG stations that do exist would receive somewhere between one and two dollars per resident for a proposed two years of funding.

**Recommendation:** That the City pass the resolution as recommended by the Telecommunications Commission Operations Committee.

I want to thank the Commission directors, staff, and the Operations Committee for their efforts in pursuing more modern and fair funding for North Metro TV and other PEG stations. Please reach out to the NMTC Interim Co-Executive Directors if you have any questions about this ordinance or about the franchise in general.

Sincerely,

Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff  
Chair, North Metro Telecommunications Commission

Enc.

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