

CABLE TELEVISION COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of January 24, 2024

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Cynthia L. Miller
Kathleen E. Driver
Thelma C. Newsome-Somers
Festus Udejiofor

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT: Lakisha Pingshaw, Cable Television Administrator

COMCAST REPRESENTATIVE: Tami Watkins

VERIZON REPRESENTATIVE: Louise Anderson

PGCTV REPRESENTATIVE: None

GUESTS PRESENT: Belinda Cowling, Upper Marlboro

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and introductions were made. The minutes of December 27 29, 2023, meeting was reviewed and approved.

Commissioner Udejiofor, called for open action items. There were none.

Commissioner Udejiofor called for the monthly report. The monthly report was read with detailed information. Commission Staff received no additional tasks from the Commissioners for the monthly report.

The Prince George's Community Television (PGCTV) report was submitted and accepted by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Udejiofor moved to public comment. Ms. Belinda Cowling, Upper Marlboro was in attendance but did not have any specific concern for the Commission.

Commissioner Udejiofor moved to the cable provider reports.

Tami Watkins, Comcast shared the expansion of their 10G network rollout in Montgomery, Prince George's and Howard County. The network will accelerate speeds for broadband usage that will enhance access to telehealth and education. Ms. Watkins shared that the Office of Statewide Broadband recently submitted a report to NTIA for federal BEAD dollars, which will allow additional opportunities to partner with counties across the State for grant opportunities. Ms. Watkins also shared a link in the meeting chat to the State's Broadband plan. Furthermore, Ms. Watkins shared that the ACP (Affordable Connectivity Program) window for applications would be closing soon. However, if Commission Staff received questions concerning the affordable connectivity credit they should be directed to Comcast. Additionally,

Ms. Watkins shared information about the Maryland Emergency Broadband benefit, which is an additional \$15 off on top of the \$35 from ACP. However, the Emergency Broadband Benefit will also end at the end of February. Lastly, Ms. Watkins shared the Comcast has been proactively notifying customers about this change and are prepared to work with any resident who is impacted.

Commissioner Newsome-Somers asked how long the rollout of the 10G network will take. Ms. Watkins replied that Comcast is in year two of the project; however, it depends upon the physical address. Ms. Watkins stated that residents can call Comcast directly to confirm if the node is scheduled to be upgraded. Lastly, Ms. Watkins stated if Commissioners have any questions about a specific location, she could address that offline.

Louise Anderson, Verizon shared that she would provide information about Verizon's broadband expansion in the County at the next Cable Commission meeting.

Commissioner Udejiofor moved to Commissioner's comments. Commissioners Udejiofor, Driver, and Miller had no comments to share.

Commissioner Newsome-Somers asked that both providers share information monthly on service offerings and/or exciting news.

Both Representatives expressed an interest in receiving topics of interest to the Commission in an effort to provide effective reporting in the monthly meetings. Commissioner Newsome-Somers shared that the Commissioners are working on standardizing their points of interest and assured the topics would be shared upon completion.

Commissioner Udejiofor thanked everyone for joining.

The next Cable Television Commission meeting will be held via Zoom and is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.