

CABLE TELEVISION COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of April 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, Director Government and
Regulatory Affairs

VERIZON REPRESENTATIVE: Louise Anderson, Fios Franchise Service Manager

PGCTV REPRESENTATIVE: Robert Barry, Programming Director

GUESTS PRESENT: None

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Cynthia L. Miller at 6:00p.m. and introductions were made. The minutes of March 27, 2024, meeting was reviewed and approved.

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

Commissioner Miller 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.

Commissioner Miller moved to the Prince George's Community Television (PGCTV) monthly report.

Mr. Robert Barry, PGCTV presented the monthly report and explained the contents to include the number of hours related to the public access department. Mr. Barry asked if there were any questions. There were none. The PGCTV monthly report was unanimously accepted by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Miller moved to public comment. There were no guests from the public in attendance.

Commissioner Miller moved to the cable provider reports.

Tami Watkins, Comcast had no new updates to share before the Commission. However, Ms. Watkins welcomed any questions from the Commissioners.

Louise Anderson, Verizon Franchise Manager shared that Verizon is bracing for the end of the ACP (Affordability Connect Program), and that this could be a growing concern for many residents. Ms. Anderson explained that the end of the ACP means that people will be losing their discounts at the end of the month. As such, Verizon is committed to continuing to provide low-cost Internet through their Verizon Forward Program. Additionally, Verizon has a special offer for new enrollees if qualified could get Internet for 6 months for \$0. There are several factors for eligibility for the Verizon Forward program, if they receive SNAP benefits; currently on Medicaid; etc. For the full list of eligibility factors, please visit Verizon's website. Ms. Anderson also added, the Verizon Forward program benefits are available on all of Verizon's regular products; not only "special products". Ms. Anderson stated that she would send the links for the Verizon Forward Program that has FAQs to the County and the Commission Staff.

Commissioner Miller asked if the discount would also apply to video. Ms. Anderson replied that the Verizon Forward Program focuses on Internet affordability only.

Commissioner Udejiofor asked if the price will go to the regular price after the six-months.

Ms. Anderson replied, yes. She continued, if those new enrollees into the Verizon Forward Programs selected the basic tier of Internet service, at the end of their six-month period, the price would be \$30 per month.

Commissioner Miller thanked both Franchise Managers for their attendance and information shared and moved to Commissioner's comments. No comments were shared from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Miller thanked everyone for joining and concluded the meeting at 6:42pm.

The next Cable Television Commission meeting will be held via Zoom and is scheduled for Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 6:00p.m.