

RESOLUTION NO. 1673

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A JOINT LETTER WITH WICOMICO COUNTY REQUESTING THAT COMCAST PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THE COMMUNITY ACCESS STATION (PAC14) FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, Community Access Television was established to serve the Salisbury-Wicomico County Comcast service area in 1998 and has continued to serve this area in the intervening ten years, first in the form of Access 26, and, currently, in the form of PAC 14; and

WHEREAS, PAC 14 has received support for operational costs from Wicomico County, the City of Salisbury and Salisbury University but has received very little support for capital costs since its inception; and

WHEREAS, a formal Needs Assessment conducted in 2000 determined that approximately \$3,000,000 is needed in capital support to provide appropriate facilities and production and master control/playback equipment for PAC 14; and

WHEREAS, neither Wicomico County, the City of Salisbury or Salisbury University are able to provide the level of funding required to met the capital needs for PAC14; and

WHEREAS, Comcast, which has received a franchise from both Wicomico County and the City of Salisbury to provide cable television service in this area, provided a modest contribution to support PAC 14 at the time of the renewal of its franchise with Wicomico County but has not been willing to provide further support; and

WHEREAS, Comcast has indicated a willingness to consider making a contribution to provide capital equipment for PAC 14; however, only with the understanding that they would pass this cost on to their subscribers in the form of a monthly fee on the subscriber's bill; and

WHEREAS, Pac 14 has calculated that a subscriber fee of \$.85 per subscriber per month would generate approximately \$1,950,000 over the eight years remaining on the current Comcast franchise, which could be used to construct a Community Media Center to house office and production facilities for PAC 14 as well as facilities to train members of the public to produce programs to be aired on PAC 14, and to purchase production, post-production, master control and field equipment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Salisbury City Council authorizes the Mayor to sign a joint letter with Wicomico County requesting that Comcast provide support to the community access station (PAC14) for the acquisition of capital facilities and equipment totaling approximately \$1.95 million over eight years.

THE ABOVE RESOLUTION was introduced and duly passed at a meeting of the Council of the City of Salisbury, Maryland held on ____ day of _____, 2008 and is to become effective immediately upon adoption.

ATTEST:

Brenda J. Colegrove
CITY CLERK

Louise Smith
PRESIDENT, City Council

APPROVED by me this _____ day of
_____, 2008.

Barrie P. Tilghman
MAYOR, City of Salisbury