

CLARK COUNTY
STAFF REPORT

DEPARTMENT: City/County Cable Television Office

DATE: January 14, 2014

REQUEST: APPROVE USE OF PEG CAPITAL SUPPORT FUNDS FOR INET AND
COMCAST BUSINESS

CHECK ONE: Consent Routine

BACKGROUND: The cable franchise agreements between the City of Vancouver, Clark County and Comcast Corporation provide for a contribution in the amount of \$1/month per subscriber for support of a Public, Education, and Government (PEG) capital fund. One of the allowed uses of the PEG fund is to reimburse institutional subscribers for monthly iNet transport fees. The Institutional Network (iNet) is a service offered by Comcast to publicly funded institutional subscribers (i.e. government, education or other publicly funded facilities) that provides high-speed voice, video and data-services. iNet offers high-speed connectivity between key public facilities and also provides redundancy in the case of emergencies.

In the 2013 franchise agreement, Comcast expanded the allowable use of PEG capital support funds to include reimbursement of Comcast Business Service monthly transport fees for the four iNet subscribers, the City of Vancouver, Clark County, the Northwest Regional Training Center (NWRTC) and the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District (FVRLD). Comcast's goal is to eventually eliminate the iNet, which is a dedicated service with just a few subscribers, and replace it with Comcast Business Service.

Historically, the PEG fund has been providing \$227,439 annually to reimburse for monthly iNet transport fees. Comcast Business is a less expensive monthly service than iNet and the PEG Subcommittee of the Vancouver/Clark Telecommunications Commission recommended that the City and County continue the annual allocation for iNet/Comcast Business reimbursements at \$227,439. Annual PEG income is gradually decreasing as more subscribers migrate away from cable television.

The agreements with the institutional subscribers for iNet/Comcast Business fee reimbursements will be for five years, 2013-2017. The new cable franchise agreement is for ten years which will allow one potential adjustment in the rate of iNet/Comcast Business fee reimbursements.

ACTION REQUESTED: On January 14, 2014 adopt a resolution, under the terms of the interlocal agreement between the City of Vancouver and Clark County, authorizing up to \$227,439 of PEG Capital Support Funds annually to be used to reimburse authorized institutional subscribers for iNet and/or Comcast Business Services monthly transport fees.



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(Note: Under the terms of the Interlocal agreement between the County and the City, both the Board and Council must approve the use of these funds.)

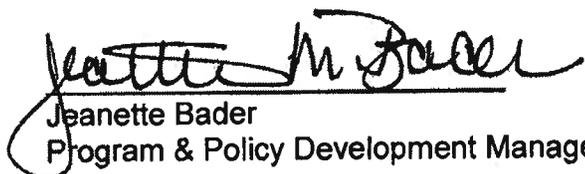
POLICY/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: Funding for reimbursement of iNet/Comcast Business Service monthly transport fees is included in the PEG Capital Support Fund 2013-2014 Budget at \$227,439. This action will have a positive impact on the County's budget since up to \$92,400 in annual iNet/Comcast Business transport fees will be reimbursed by the PEG fund.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: The City/County Telecommunications Commission discussed the use of PEG Capital Support funds for iNet and Comcast Business transport fees at their public meeting on April 17, 2013.

Attachments: Board Resolution

DISTRIBUTION:

Christine Cook, Prosecuting Attorney's Office

 Approved
Jeanette Bader
Program & Policy Development Manager

January 14, 2014
CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

SR 9-14

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RESOLUTION NO. 2014-01-02

A RESOLUTION relating to cable television and to the use of Public, Educational and Governmental (“PEG”) capital funds to support provision of iNet and/or Comcast Business Services to local government organizations.

WHEREAS, on June 3, 2013, a new cable franchise agreement with Comcast of Washington, V LLC (“Comcast”) was approved by the Vancouver City Council and on June 4, 2013 the cable franchise agreement was approved by the Clark County Board of County Commissioners; and.

WHEREAS, under the terms of the new franchise agreement, Comcast continues to collect \$1.00 per month per residential subscriber to support the Public, Education and Government (PEG) capital fund, as established by Ordinance M-3459; and

WHEREAS, Comcast provides dedicated high-speed voice, video and data services through the Comcast Institutional Network (iNet) that is used by publicly funded institutional subscribers to provide high-speed connectivity between key facilities and redundant services in the event of emergencies; and

WHEREAS, four local government institutions subscribe to the Comcast Institutional Network (iNet) including the City of Vancouver, Clark County, the Northwest Regional Training Center (NWRTC) and the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District (FVRLD) ; and

1 WHEREAS, the new franchise agreement allows a portion of the PEG capital
2 fund to continue be used to offset the monthly iNet transport fees; and

3 WHEREAS, Comcast wishes to encourage current iNet users to migrate to
4 Comcast Business Services in lieu of iNet and through the new franchise has agreed that
5 PEG capital funds can also be used to offset monthly Comcast Business service charges;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, the City, County, NWRTC and FVRLD all wish to continue to
8 provide to provide high-speed connectivity between key facilities and redundant services
9 in the event of emergencies through iNet and/or Comcast Business; and

10 WHEREAS, as set forth in SR 209-99, the City of Vancouver and Clark County
11 entered into an interlocal agreement whereby the City administers PEG capital funds, but
12 the use of the funds requires approval by both the City Council and Clark County Board
13 of County Commissioners.

14 NOW, THEREFORE,

15 BE IT ORDERED AND RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY
16 COMMISSIONERS OF CLARK COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON, AS
17 FOLLOWS:

18 Section 1.

19 A. As recommended in SR 1-14 the City will reserve \$227,439 annually from the
20 PEG capital support fund for reimbursement of iNet and/or Comcast Business
21 monthly transport fees for the City, Clark County, the Northwest Regional
22 Training Center and the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District.

1 B. Agreements for reimbursement of monthly transport fees with the City,
2 County, NWRTC and FVRLD shall be for five years, commencing January 1,
3 2013 and continuing through December 31, 2017.

4 Section 2. Allocation of the funds described in Section 1 is conditioned upon
5 approval of such allocation by the Vancouver City Council.

6
7 ADOPTED on this 14th day of January, 2014.

8
9 Attest:

BOARD OF CLARK COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

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14 Rebecca Jitor
15 Clerk to the Board

By: Tom Mielke
Tom Mielke, Chair

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17 Approved as to form only
18 Anthony F. Golik
19 Prosecuting Attorney:

By: _____
David Madore, Commissioner

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22 Christine Cook
23 Christine Cook
24 Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
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By: _____
Steve Stuart, Commissioner

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