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City of West Allis Matter Summary

7525 W. Greenfield Ave.
West Allis, WI 53214

File Number	Title	Status
2006-0176	Communication	In Committee
	Time Warner Cable communication regarding the franchising process and AT&T-SBC plan to offer video services.	
	Introduced: 4/4/2006	Controlling Body: License & Health Committee

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

POF

ACTION DATE:	MOVER	SECONDER		AYE	NO	PRESENT	EXCUSED
<u>4-4-06</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Barczak				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Czaplewski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dobrowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kopplin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lajsic				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Narlock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reinke				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sengstock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vitale				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weigel				
			TOTAL	<u>4</u>			<u>1</u>

SIGNATURE OF COMMITTEE MEMBER

Kurt Kopplin
Chair

Vice-Chair

Member

PLACE ON FILE

COMMON COUNCIL ACTION

ACTION DATE:	MOVER	SECONDER		AYE	NO	PRESENT	EXCUSED
<u>APR 04 2006</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Barczak				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Czaplewski				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dobrowski				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kopplin				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lajsic				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Narlock				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reinke				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sengstock				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vitale				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weigel				
			TOTAL				

UNANIMOUS

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Milwaukee, WI 53212-4002
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Fax 414-908-0327
bev.greenberg@twcable.com

Bev Greenberg
Vice President
Public Affairs



March 17, 2006

Mayor Jeannette Bell
City of West Allis
7525 W. Greenfield Ave.
West Allis, WI 53214

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
RECEIVED

MAR 23 2006

WESTALLIS, WI

RECEIVED

MAR 23 2006

CITY OF WEST ALLIS
CLERK

Dear Mayor Bell:

The first quarter of 2006 is passing quickly and Time Warner Cable is finding that our customers are embracing the "All n One" concept. We are proud to offer Digital Cable, high speed data and Digital Phone service. As companies continue to roll out new products we find ourselves doing business in an increasingly competitive marketplace. Competition is of course, in the best interest of our consumers and residents. Time Warner Cable is hoping that in this competitive marketplace you will help us to ensure that like services operate within a "level playing field".

We understand that representatives from AT&T – SBC have been meeting with several communities throughout Wisconsin to inform them of AT&T's plan to offer video services. We have also been informed that AT&T does not consider their video service to be a "cable service" and therefore will not be seeking a local franchise with Wisconsin communities.

We believe that AT&T is offering "cable service" and therefore disagree with AT&T's position on their not needing a franchise agreement if they intend to offer video services. As you know, s. 66.0419 WI Stats. grants municipalities clear authority to require a franchise of any entity providing cable television service [s. 66.0419(3)]. Additionally, the statutes provide a broad definition of "cable service" which encompasses any one-way transmission to subscribers of video programming or other programming services including any subscriber interaction which may be required for the selection of video or other programming service [s. 66.0419(2)(c)].

Therefore, we would expect them to obtain a franchise agreement with your local community ensuring that all like service providers will operate within a "level playing field". We are not aware of any issues with the franchising process today. However, Time Warner Cable is open to a review of how franchises are awarded if you believe it would encourage a level playing field in this competitive environment. We urge municipalities to ensure that no one company is given advantages that would prevent fair competition among all providers.

Once again, Time Warner Cable supports a competitive marketplace. Frankly, that is why we invested over \$300 million in Wisconsin to upgrade our cable system. We understand that in order to remain competitive, we must continue to launch innovative services that give our customers the convenience and choice they have come to expect. As you know, since our fiber optic upgrade, Time Warner Cable has introduced hundreds of new programming options through digital cable, high speed data service, High Definition Television, the Digital Video Recorder, interactive television, digital phone, and Wisconsin on Demand. You can be assured that Time Warner Cable will continue to launch new products to provide our customers with maximum choice, convenience and quality service.

If you would like to discuss this letter or anything relating to Time Warner Cable, please do not hesitate to call me at 414-277-4190.

Sincerely,

Bev Greenberg

cc JERRY M... (handwritten)