

**RESOLUTION 2006-02-007R – A RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE THE REPORT AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC ACCESS COMMITTEE OF THE C-U JOINT  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

Whereas: In January 2005 the Champaign-Urbana Cable and Telecommunications Commission, in preparation for the upcoming cable franchise renewal, established a Public Access Study Committee to research public access via cable television;

whereas, Committee members submitted the report to the Commission on November 9, 2005 and demonstrated sufficient public interest and commitment to make public access television viable;

whereas, the Champaign-Urbana Cable and Telecommunications Commission voted unanimously to accept the recommendations of the Public Access Study Committee on January 18, 2005;

whereas, the Urbana Public Television Commission voted to “urge the City of Urbana to work as soon as possible with the City of Champaign to secure the services of a consultant for the upcoming cable TV franchise renewal;”

whereas, the Committee explained how the franchise renewal can benefit our community with little or no cost to local government;

whereas, it is likely consultant fees will be recaptured in full during the franchise renewal process;

and whereas, the Committee recommendations regarding public access will be essential in preparing for franchise renewal negotiations;

Therefore be it resolved

that the Council accept the recommendations as presented in the Public Access Study Committee Report as direction for the franchise renewal process forthcoming. In summary, these recommendations are:

- A. Establish one or more stand-alone Public Access channels and expand bandwidth for the benefit, pleasure, and use of our citizens;
- B. Establish a nonprofit Community Media Center which would manage Public Access cable television resources for the entire community;
- C. Designate a portion of cable franchise fees from participating municipalities to fund the Public Access station.
- D. Secure the services of a consultant with a strong track record in building Public Access;
- E. Closely review future cable franchise transfers.
- F. Ensure that government and education channels are maintained at a high level and bandwidth is increased.

Further, that the Council direct staff to secure the services of a cable franchise renewal consultant , with documented success in achieving optimum support for Public Access, in conjunction with the City of Champaign, if possible, as soon as possible. Staff is also encouraged to expand the negotiation process and consultant services to include additional governmental units such as the county and area communities that may also be nearing their own renewal term.