

Don't forget to sign in at the back of the room.

New-Comers, please use the black notebook. Returning neighbors, please use the red notebook.

*** Please review and be prepared to recommend any amendments to our previous Minutes.**

**** Please note that numbers in parentheses denote the time in minutes allotted for that topic. "QA" denotes the time allotted for follow-up question and answer. These times may be adjusted by the Chairman as needed.**

PROGRAM

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council Regular Meeting, July 13th, 2005

		Priorities
7:00	Call to Order and Flag Salute	
	Roll Call (sign in sheet)	
	Welcome Newcomers and Guests (5)	Ken McAlpine
	Certification Cake (1)	Ken McAlpine
	Flag Salute (2)	Ken McAlpine
	Commendation from CD2 (2)	Sue Dell, Neighborhood Attorney
7:10	Executive Committee Reports	
	Hottest Topics (2)	Ken McAlpine
	Minutes (2)	Ava Wrightsman
	Treasurer's Report (2)	Robin Meares
7:15	Board Reports	
	Grievance Report (2)	Ava Wrightsman/John Waters
7:20	First Public Comments (15)	
	Neighborhood Purposes Grant (2)	Alice Debbaud
	The "New Heaven on Earth Ranch" Foundation (2)	
7:35	Program Speakers	
	Neighborhood Improvement Projects (10+10QA)	Michael Espinosa, Dept. of Public Works
7:55	Committee Reports	
	DAC – FAR (2)	Roberta Actor-Thomas #1
	Ford Property Update (4)	Debby Beck #1
	Home Depot (4)	Don Breeding #1
	Planning (5+5QA)	Dale Thrush #1
	DAC Overall (0)	John LaRocca (written) #1
	Safety (2)	Nina Royal #2
	Crime Statistics (3QA)	Frank Avila/Larry Martinez #2
	Outreach (2)	Mona Curry/Peter Babaian #6
8:20	Old Business	
	1) MOTION: Viacom Transit Shelters (5)	Robin Meares
8:25	New Business	
	1) MOTION: Neighborhood Purposes Grant (5)	Robin Meares
	2) MOTION: Intervene on New Cable Provider (5)	Robin Meares
	3) MOTION: Open Meeting on Home Depot (20)	Nina Royal
	4) MOTION: Position Letter re: Planning Committee (5)	Julianne Maurseth
	5) MOTION: Strategic Plan Strategy (5)	Julianne Maurseth
	6) MOTION: Sponsor Ford ground breaking event (5)	Debby Beck
9:10	Second Public Comment (5)	
	Be sure to see calendar of community events with handouts.	
	Chairman's Reminders	
9:15	Adjournment of Board Business	

Mark your calendar for these upcoming STNC meetings:

DAC	Mon, Jul 25 @ 7:00 pm – NVNCH (Muni Bldg)
Agenda/Executive Committee meeting	Wed, Aug 3 @ 7:00 pm – YMCA 6840 Foothill
Outreach	Sat, Aug 6 @ 8:30 am – Denny's
DAC	Mon, Aug 8 @ 7:00 pm – NVNCH (Muni Bldg)
STNC Regular Meeting	wed, Aug 10 @ 7:00 pm – Mt. Gleason School

Program: Preventing Gangs and Salvaging our Youth – Richard Stocks & Mitch Herman

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council
STRATEGIC PLAN - 2005 (DRAFT #4 -- revised 3/05 -- Revisions in blue)

STNC MISSION: Improving the Quality of Life in Sunland-Tujunga.

STNC PRIORITIES: The following Priorities reflect the Community Survey results from June 2004. Priorities have been grouped and synthesized from the original 10 Goal categories, to target the Community's major strategic needs.

For Strategic Plan details, see:

pp. 2-3

Priority #1: Improve Community Appearance

Priority #2: Improve Safety & Crime Prevention

p. 4

Priority #3: Preserve Scenic Beauty & Ecological Protections

p. 5

Priority #4: Improve Quality & Vitality of Our Business Districts

pp. 6-7

Priority #5: Promote & Celebrate Our Cultural Resources

p. 8

Priority #6: Strengthen Outreach Response for Long-Term Health of Community Relations

pp. 9-10

KEY STRATEGIES for success of ALL Priorities & Goals:

1. Invite and motivate others to join our 15-year "Sunland-Tujunga Vision 2020" -- to become a "model Community" in Los Angeles on how to revitalize, innovate and adapt to change while enhancing our unique Community culture and values.
2. Request all STNC Committees to align their plans & activities in sync with the 6 Priorities, Goals & Strategies -- and report regularly to the Community on progress regarding the top Priorities (per "scoreboard").
3. Promote and maintain a collaborative STNC Board, proactive outreach with all Community stakeholders, partnership with FTDNC and other Neighborhood Councils, and partnership with our District 2 office.
4. Build key relationships with City departments, and create buy-in at each stage. Work with inertia, not against it.
5. Continue to advocate for City Charter enforcement of Article IX regarding Neighborhood Councils.
6. Measure and reward progress - hold Community celebrations for milestones achieved together.
7. All Stakeholders - stay the course with patience for the long-term Vision while achieving short-term goals.

Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council Calendar of Events

Sat, July 16 th	11am-3pm	Budget Committee Board meeting North Valley Neighborhood City Hall (Muni Bldg) STNC Office
Sun, July 17 th	noon-5pm	Waste Management of Sun Valley Open House 9081 Tujunga Avenue, Sun Valley, CA For more info: Cynthia Rodriguez (818) 252-3146
Mon, July 18 th	7pm	Bylaws Committee Meeting North Valley Neighborhood City Hall (Muni Bldg) STNC Office
Tues, July 19 th	7pm	Strategic Plan Committee Meeting North Valley Neighborhood City Hall (Muni Bldg) Auditorium
Thurs, July 21	7:30pm	Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council Various Locations For more info: (818) 896-6058
Fri, July 22 nd	7:30pm	All Nations Church, Main Sanctuary Community Family Concert 10000 Foothill Blvd., Lake View Terrace, CA For more info: (818) 470-5235 or email: lamikec@yahoo.com
Mon, July 25 th	7pm	DAC – Land Use Issues North Valley Neighborhood City Hall (Muni Bldg) Auditorium For more info: John LaRocca (818) 266-2477
Wed, July 27 th	7pm	Vision 2020 YMCA, 6840 Foothill Blvd. Conference Room
Thurs, July 28 th	7pm	Budget Committee North Valley Neighborhood City Hall (Muni Bldg) STNC Office
Wed, Aug 3 rd	7pm	Executive Committee and Agenda Meeting YMCA, 6840 Foothill Blvd. Conference Room

Sat, Aug 6 th	8:30am	Outreach meeting Denny's Restaurant For more info: Mona Curry (818) 352-4900
Mon., Aug 8 th	7pm	DAC – Land Use Issues North Valley Neighborhood City Hall (Muni Bldg) Auditorium For more info: John LaRocca (818) 266-2477
Wed, Aug 10 th	7pm	STNC Monthly Meeting Mt. Gleason Middle School - Multi Purpose Room 10965 Mt. Gleason, Sunland (Handicap Access.) Speakers: Richard Stocks & Mitch Herman Gang Prevention and Salvaging our Youth
Thurs, Aug 18 th	7:30pm	Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council Various Locations For more info: (818) 896-6058
Tues, Aug 23 rd	7pm	Strategic Plan Committee Meeting North Valley Neighborhood City Hall (Muni Bldg) Auditorium
Thurs, Aug 25 th	5:45pm	Budget Committee North Valley Neighborhood City Hall (Muni Bldg) STNC Office
Mon, Aug 29 th	7pm	DAC – Land Use Issues North Valley Neighborhood City Hall (Muni Bldg) Auditorium For more info: John LaRocca (818) 266-2477
Wed, Aug 31 st	7pm	Vision 2020 YMCA, 6840 Foothill Blvd. Conference Room



3800 West Chapman Avenue • Orange, CA 92868
(714) 940-3500

June 16, 2005

Mr. Dale Thrush
Planning Deputy
Councilmember Wendy Greuel
City Hall, Room 475
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Reflections on our meeting of June 3, 2005

Dear Mr. Thrush:

On behalf of Home Depot I wish to express my appreciation for your hosting the meeting this past Friday with our team and members of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council. It allowed all of us to engage in a positive dialog on ways we can partner with the greater community to meet its goals and ours. Because successful partnerships are based on good communications and realistic expectations, I would like to summarize below some of my impressions from our initial meeting:

1. There are a number of land use options that we identified and should further explore for the 10-acre site on which Home Depot has purchased the leasehold interest of K-Mart.
2. Among these options, the preferred option for Home Depot would be to demolish the existing store and replace it with a new store that stayed within the footprint of the existing store.
3. Among the options preferred by the representatives of the community we met with, a mixed-use project with a significant component of retail and services was articulated and anticipated.
4. Predicated on the premise that a viable Home Depot store must be a part of such a mixed-use project, we at Home Depot are willing to explore specific mixes devoted to each use.
5. In the absence of a consensus for a mixed-use, based on economic realities and compatible uses, arrived at in a reasonable time frame, Home Depot will need to either proceed with its preferred option or consider the less attractive option of simply reopening the existing building and restocking the shelves.

—over→



Over the next several weeks we will continue to assemble answers to the questions and requests made of us during our first meeting and then we should schedule a second meeting, perhaps in early July.

Again, thanks for the efforts of your office to bring us all together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Greene', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Richard Greene
Real Estate Manager
Western Region

NEW BUSINESS: 7-18-05

1. **Motion** re: Neighborhood Purposes Grant.

I move that the STNC sponsor the clean-up of Plot 14 at the Mount Gleason Middle School with a grant of \$350.00 I further move that the STNC sponsor the purchase of tools to be used in the maintenance of Plot 14 with a grant of \$150.00 The total of this Neighborhood Purposes Grant is \$500.00.

(Robin Meares/Alice Debbaud)

2. **Motion** re: Public Access TV (Time/Warner)

I move that the STNC request Councilmember Wendy Greuel's intervention in the negotiations with Sunland-Tujunga's new cable provider Time Warner to ensure that S-T is provided:

- a Public Access Studio which is local to the community
- a Public Access Studio that has one public access channel and one local educational access channel
- assures that our local community access facility is updated to modern standards a minimum of every 5 years as needed

The cable company is required to provide every franchise area with a public access studio and public access channels. S-T is in franchise area D

(Robin Meares/Edie McMillan)

3. **Motion** re: Canyon Hills Position Letter.

That the STNC approve the "draft" position statement in responses to the Planning Commission Report on the Canyon Hills hearing

(Julianne Maurseth)

4. **Motion** re: target projects (wins) or Strategic Planning Committee Recommendation

I move that the STNC approve recommendations from the Strategic Planning Committee regarding short-term "wins" for the Community

(Julianne Maurseth)

5. **Motion** re: Home Depot

That all future meetings relative to Home Depot are to be held in an open forum with the Sunland-Tujunga Stakeholders effective immediately.

(Nina Royal)

6. **Motion** re: Ford Property

I move that the STNC sponsor a groundbreaking celebration for the Ford Property on September 17, 2005

(Debby Beck)

RE: motion #1

I move that the STNC sponsor the clean up of plot 14 at the Mount Gleason Middle School with a grant of \$350.00 I further move that the STNC sponsor the purchase of tools to be used in the maintenance of plot 14 with a grant of \$150.00. The total of this Neighborhood Purposes Grant is \$500.00

Project 1: Outdoor learning center

Project manager: Captain Murray - Verdugo High ROTC

Date of project- August-September 2005

Description of project- ROTC will clean up plot 14 in Mt. Gleason

Garden and assemble and paint 5 outdoor benches that turn into desks.

Supplies needed:

45 lengths of 2 x 4's , each 6' long

outdoor paint or stain/sealer and paint brushes

estimated cost: \$350.00 (priced at Home Depot)

Project 2: Maintenance Supplies

Gardening tools- hoes, spades, hoses, trowels,vermiculite, peat moss

estimated cost: \$150.00 (priced at various sites)

The STNC money will come out of the Outreach category in the 04/05 Budget . This grant is support by our strategic plan in the following priorities:

#1 sub section 3,5

#2 sub section 2

#5

We will receive a stepping stone acknowledging the STNC for it's sponsorship.

Additionally, all tools with wooden handles will be marked with the wording "sponsored by the STNC". Alice Debbaud will oversee the acknowledgments.

RE: MOTION # 2

I move that Councilmember Wendy Greuel intervene with the negotiations with our new Cable provider TimeWarner to insure that Tujunga is provided:

-a Public Access Studio which is local to the community

-a Public Access Studio that has one public access channel and one local educational access channel

-Assures that our local community access facility is updated to modern standards a minimum of every 5 years of as needed

The cable company is required o provide every franchise area with a public access studio and public access channels. Tujunga is in Franchise area D

RE: MOTION #2

My name is Edie McMillan. I have been a public access producer since the early 1980's. During most of that time VHTV operated out of a facility located on the campus of Verdugo Hills High School. However in May of 2003 the studio was required to leave that facility because the school needed that space for classrooms. We had actually been allowed to remain 2 years longer than we originally thought we could.

Currently there is a small studio in the basement of the cable company on Commerce Avenue in Tujunga, I urge you as a member of this community to call VHTV & ask for a tour of the studio. It does not fulfill our needs. As I said, it is in a basement where the ceilings are low & you can actually hear people walking above you, & other noise, such as flushing toilets. I have toured other public access studios where there is quality equipment & studio space to tape shows. We deserve the same, and the cable companies are required to provide this for us.

There is a motion before the Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council tonight in reference to a new public access studio for our community. **We**, are entitled to this avenue of communication. We **must** have a studio to tape our public access shows, that houses the latest in equipment & technology, so that any of you that want to produce a show will have an opportunity to highlight your clubs, organizations and community events and be **proud** of your **production**.

I urge you to pass the motion when it comes before you, so our Foothill community will have a studio where we **can** produce **quality** shows.

Thank you for your time.



CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE RENEWAL

FINAL

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

STAFF REPORT

DECEMBER 24, 2003

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II. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Purpose

The City of Los Angeles has over 600,000 cable television subscribers. The City is divided into fourteen (14) franchise areas, each served by one of five cable television operators. All of the incumbent cable franchises served by cable operators expired in year 2002. The City has extended all but one to August 4, 2004.

Four of the cable operators serving the City, Adelphia Communications, Comcast Corporation, Cox Communications, and Time Warner Cable, have formally requested renewal of the existing franchises. In response to the cable operators' request and to comply with Section 626 of the Communications Act the City commenced proceedings to identify the future cable-related needs and interests of the City and to evaluate the past performance of each cable operator under its current franchise agreements. The City has the right to continue these proceedings until it decides to issue a formal demand to each operator to submit a renewal proposal which addresses the City's identified needs and interests.

Pursuant to City Council mandate, the Information Technology Agency ("ITA") of the City has undertaken a range of actions that culminate and constitute the substance of these "proceedings". ITA presents this information addressing the future cable-related needs of the City and its citizens for purposes of initiating negotiations with the individual operators. The data collected is compiled to form this Staff Report to the City Council and seeks to serve as a guide in seeking reasonable terms and provisions in the renewed cable television franchise agreements.

Federal law provides a separate and distinct process the City must follow if cable franchise renewal negotiations are not successful. The City may at any time require one or more of the cable operators submit a renewal proposal based upon the City's evaluation of the City's future cable-related needs and interests and certain other factors. The City has four months to determine if an operator's proposal is adequate. Upon reaching a preliminary decision that a proposal does not warrant renewal, the operator may request and the City must conduct a formal hearing to determine whether the operator fails to satisfy one of four criteria for renewal specified in federal law.

ITA seeks to avoid the formal hearing process by the City reaching negotiated renewal agreements with each of the operators. A negotiated franchise can include terms and provisions that the City could not demand in its formal demand. For example, the City can negotiate enforceable terms for operational payments to support Public, Education, and Government Access ("PEG"), yet the City can only demand PEG capacity and capital funds in the formal process. The

formal hearing process also adds delay and costs to implementing the next generation of cable franchise agreements.

The City is prepared to pursue the formal demand alternative if any of the operators are not willing to reach a negotiated agreement. A formal demand proposal will be more resource demanding and time consuming for both the City and the operator. It will delay the improvements that will evolve from the new franchise agreements that will benefit the City's citizens, the operator's subscribers. A negotiated settlement should present both interests the ability to integrate their objective more effectively and efficiently.

Recognizing that the formal process may be necessary for one or more operators, ITA will update its needs and interests evaluations until the date all the franchises are successfully negotiated or the City issues a formal demand for renewal. This Staff Report is intended to provide the City Council a "snapshot" of the City's current needs and interests as ITA presently understands them. What evolves from this assessment are negotiation goals detailed in this report.

ITA asks the City Council to give it guidance on these and any additional needs and interests which the Council believes should be addressed in the cable franchise renewal negotiations.

B. Recommendations

The foundation of the cable franchise renewals should be the universal deployment of cable systems capable of delivering advanced services. These systems should build on the economic vitality of the City by providing cable system subscribers the opportunity to participate in benefits accruing from the use of modern telecommunications, fostering participation in the democratic process by the ability of the citizen to retrieve, process, and disperse neighborhood, community and governmental information; and pursuing progressive and innovative models of public, educational, and government access.

1. Customer Service

- Customer Service encompasses the subscriber receiving quality services that are structured to recognize the character of the City at a fair price, with cable operator accountability. The recommendations include continuing to regulate rates to the extent authorized by law so as to ensure the lowest possible rates while seeking commitments to provide stability with regard to these rates, encouraging a competitive environment for the delivery of services, and implementing new customer service standards that promote cable operator accountability. Additionally, multiple full service customer service centers should be located in each Los Angeles franchise area and be open for established minimum hours Monday thru Saturday.

2. System Design

- The City should be served by state-of-the art cable systems with substantially greater capacity, reliability and flexibility than now in place that can respond to and parallel advances in cable services during a new franchise term. Systems should be designed and upgraded so that optimum performance of all services can be provided without additional construction or service disruptions to customers. The systems should be capable of providing the subscriber choice with regard to (a) receiving a variety of traditional cable television services; (b) providing advanced cable services (such as video on demand, high definition services and high-bandwidth upstream interactive services) simultaneously to multiple subscribers; and (c) support simultaneous subscriber use of the systems for upstream and downstream purposes. These include secure subscriber interaction with high bandwidth, two-way interactive services for use in telecommuting. The system should ensure the ability of cable subscribers to use the full range of cable services, including advanced services, while not being adversely affected as cable operators provide additional services.
- All parts of all cable systems, including subscriber drops, should be upgraded to improve the quality of the service and ensure compliance with current construction codes. Subscriber drops should be replaced with hybrid copper coaxial/fiber drop wires to the degree that the economic value of the investment can be provided to the subscriber.
- All systems should be configured so each system is immediately capable of delivering all current one and two-way cable-related services and, without substantial additional construction, provides additional up and downstream bandwidth to and from each subscriber, to support robust broadband applications. This environment contrasts to current cable "broadband," which has extremely limited capacity to carry information from each subscriber and significant transmission speed limitations when multiple subscribers attempt to transmit upstream.
- The services should be completely constructed during the rebuild phase to support a flexible design to respond to increases and changes in consumer demand over the franchise term.
- The cable systems should universally provide consistent levels of service to residential and non-residential locations throughout the entire City.
- The cable systems should have an interconnection capability to other communications networks inside and outside the City so that Public,

Education and Government (“PEG”) signals and institutional network signals can flow back and forth across the multiple cable systems.

- The systems should include emergency alert capabilities allowing the City to remotely and securely override the audio and video portion of all channels in the event of an emergency. This emergency alert system should permit the City to send out a local emergency alert throughout the City, to specific geographical areas of the City, and function effectively as part of a regional, state, and national emergency alert system.
- All Services that are provided from the franchised cable operator's network must have a minimum of four hours standby power provided by the operator regardless of the technology used or the service provided.
- The network must be designed with equipment capable of operating without any service disruption to active subscribers during maintenance periods.
- A minimum of 80% of the networks bandwidth must be allocated for Video programming that can provided to the cable subscriber without the need for proprietary equipment provided by the cable operator.

3. Institutional Network

Institutional networks (“I-Nets”) are communications networks designed primarily to serve subscribers other than residential subscribers – such as businesses, government and educational institutions. Federal law permits the City to pursue with the cable operator the construction of an I-Net. An I-Net may be used to deliver a variety of advanced services to the public and private sector. The City may also pursue with the operator dedicating capacity on an I-Net for government and educational use.

The following I-Net needs and interests have emerged.

- An institutional network will provide the City alternative competitive opportunities that offer more robust telecommunications capabilities at reduced costs without reducing services.
- Capacity on the operators’ networks should be provided for government and educational use, and to link City facilities and other public buildings (including schools, libraries, public safety facilities and others) for a variety of internal City and school, two-way video, voice and high-speed data communications. This capacity will improve services to the community, and allow government to provide information to the public and serve the community more effectively.

- Capacity on the institutional network should be provided to minimize the costs to the end user and to maximize end users' ability to use the equipment now in place. The capacity should also be provided so the Net can readily expand to meet future increases in City needs, both in the capacity of the network and in the number of sites served by the network.
- Fire stations and other public safety entities must be provided cable modem service as an interim broadband network access solution until Net facilities are in place and operational.

4. Public, Education, and Government Use of the System

Federal law permits local franchising authorities to require cable operators to set aside cable system channel capacity for public, educational and government use and to provide facilities and equipment to support PEG use. PEG channels offer the community the capability to act as creators and not just consumers of information. PEG facilities present an opportunity for a range of community interests that traditionally have not had adequate access to commercial mass media access to modern communications technology. The City's Teamwork LA initiative could benefit greatly from community-based studio and programming facilities associated with each of the seven City service areas.

- Management of PEG access should be reformed and responsibility placed in an entity designated by the City that pursues policies encouraging access use by the range of community interests that can contribute to quality programming and enhance the City's neighborhood service initiatives.
- Ample operational support for PEG should be provided such as state of the art programming and production equipment, including high definition television, at no cost to users. This equipment should be properly maintained, replaced, or upgraded as needed or specified, throughout the life of the Franchise Agreement. This support should not be in lieu of any franchise fee or tax payments.
- Additional channel capacity must be made available to deliver PEG programming. Capacity demands have been reflected by the County of Los Angeles and the University of California's UCTV and the increased demands on the City's government channel.
- PEG access users should be provided with support to use PEG channels, facilities, and equipment throughout the term of the franchise agreements. Support should include (a) outreach ensuring that users

are familiar with PEG opportunities and entailing how to use the channel(s) and facilities; (b) training at convenient times for consumers and (c) supportive facility administrators and skilled access staff.

- PEG channels should be available for use (a) to provide information in a variety of formats (video information, data, and multimedia); and (b) for any purpose not prohibited by applicable law. PEG users should be able to take advantage of the technical capabilities of the system as the system is developed, including capabilities for interactive services and services on demand.
- Upon a cable operator activating digital transmission parallel digital capacity should be provided to PEG services on the system.
- The existing interconnection network for PEG programming has significant signal quality and reliability issues. The interconnection is not reliable, the quality of the signal transmission is not consistent, and the network is extremely inflexible.
- The system should be capable of directing particular PEG signals to particular classes of PEG users, such as neighborhood service initiatives, fire departments, libraries, schools and police stations to enable in-house in training.
- The system should be configured to deliver PEG channels to discrete interests groups. This delivery should be Citywide, permit simultaneous transmission of different programming to different parts of the City and should permit programming to be originated and cablecast from a variety of locations throughout the City. PEG programming of particular interest to one neighborhood can be sent to that area, while different programming is delivered to another neighborhood served by the same cable system.
- Community media centers should be established throughout the City of Los Angeles. These centers should be multi functional and connected to a central facility that can coordinate the playback of programs throughout the City. These facilities should be connected to the regional neighborhood service areas and have high-quality signals placed on appropriate channels on the subscriber network.
- PEG facilities should be tied to the cable companies' headends so that signals can be properly scheduled, controlled, monitored and directed to the appropriate subscriber network channels, and delivered to subscribers without degradation in signal quality. All cable television signals, including PEG signals should be delivered from origination point to ending point without any degradation of signal quality.

- PEG access channels should be carried on the same “channel location” on systems throughout the City.

5. Other Recommendations

a. Franchise Term

The franchise term should be less than fifteen years. A long franchise term does not serve the public interest since; the system may become outdated, PEG and I-Net requirements may need to be revisited, and changes in law could require that some obligations be changed. The length of the franchise term should depend in part on the financial and capital investment terms and conditions that each operator agrees to and whether the operator has met past standards.

b. Franchise Fee

The City should obtain full and fair rent for use of the public rights of way. The 5% franchise fee on all revenues related to cable services should continue to be charged. To the extent permitted by state and federal law that fee should reach all revenues derived from the system's operations. As the 5% fee limit is a federally imposed “rent cap,” the City should also have the right to increase the fee and to require additional compensation if the law changes. The City should preserve its right to charge additional fees and obtain additional compensation to the extent it is not prohibited from doing so by applicable law. The cable franchise should be for “cable services only”. If and to the extent a cable operator wishes to use the cable system to deliver non-cable services, a separate agreement and franchise fee payment should be effectuated.

c. Use of Rights of Way

The City should incur no cost as a result of the use of the rights-of-way by the operators. The cost of regulation should be recovered from the operators. Each operator should use the rights of way in a manner that minimizes the risk of damage and undue interference with the beneficial use and enjoyment of public and private property. Each cable operator's use is secondary and no property rights or any other implied rights are being granted. Right-of-way use should be subject to conditions that ensure that City policy (e.g. under grounding of facilities) can be satisfied without undue public burden.

d. Prohibit Discrimination

Operators should not unlawfully discriminate against potential subscribers, employees, or subcontractors.

e. Enforcement

The City should have effective tools to monitor, enforce, and ensure full compliance with franchise and regulatory requirements.

f. Open Access

The City recognizes that there may be limits on its ability to require provisions for "open access," but efforts to negotiate open access to all internet service providers should be pursued.

g. Transfer of Franchise

The City should preserve its full legal rights to review, approve or reject any transfer of control of a cable system or franchise, whether resulting from a sale of assets, a sale of stock, merger, or any other device. Neither the City nor the public should be adversely affected, or face additional risks as a result of any transfer of a cable system. Transfers should not occur without correcting prior franchise violations, or without the assurance that any transferee has financial, legal, and technical qualifications to perform as required.

h. Quality of Work

Work should be performed by competent, well-trained personnel, subject to labor policies that ensure work will be performed promptly and expertly, and employees/contractors of the providers are subject to labor policies similar to those that the City would apply to contracts for work on its own behalf.

i. Persons with Disabilities

Specific provisions should be included in all franchise agreements that will ensure that cable operators accommodate people with disabilities in the provision of cable service.

j. Public Service Announcements

Specific provisions for use of airtime for public service announcements should be included in all franchise agreements.

Additional detail and information regarding these recommendations is set forth in Part VI, DETAIL OF & INTERESTS IN FUTURE CABLE SYSTEM DESIGN AND CAPACITY. Part VII contains information relating to the METHODOLOGY PURSUED TO STUDY LOS ANGELES NEEDS AND INTERESTS, from which the recommendations are based.

III. HISTORY OF CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISES IN LOS ANGELES

The United States cable television industry took its first steps in 1948 to bring television to people who lived in areas that were unable to receive conventional broadcast signals. Since then, the industry has grown into a thriving and global telecommunications force. Cable television is currently available to more than 96% percent of the television viewing homes with 73 million households in the United States being served by over 9,000 systems and it continues to grow worldwide. The cable industry has enriched the information, news, public affairs and entertainment choices of American television viewers.

The beginning of cable television in Los Angeles dates back to the early 1950's when a permit was granted for community antenna television service ("CATV") in the Paseo del Mar area of San Pedro. Soon thereafter CATV companies began serving local residents in other areas in need of improved television reception, due to the lack of broadcast reception such as the Santa Monica Mountains and the Sunland-Tujunga areas.

In the mid-1960's, the City developed a community antenna study for serving the areas of Los Angeles, which were determined to have problems receiving adequate off-the-air reception. Subsequently CATV service was franchised as provided under the existing franchise procedure ordinance (Ord. No. 58,200). In 1966, the Council passed Ordinance No. 132,951 that established and required that all existing and future operators apply for a franchise. Ordinance 132,340 passed the same year and granted the Board of Public Utilities and Transportation ("Board") the power to investigate all Grantees to determine if proper service was being furnished and to establish reasonable rates for such service. The Board was also charged with the responsibility to establish regulations providing for the operation of, the extent, character, and quality of service, and the rates to be charged. In addition, the Board was to investigate all service and rate complaints and to enforce the ordinances of the City related to CATV.

As a result of the development of the CATV plan and enactment of the enabling ordinances, the City advertised cable television franchise areas for sale in the Santa Monica Mountains, Sunland/Tujunga, and Sylmar areas of the City. The notices required that the bidders appear before the Council where the franchises were auctioned to the highest cash bidder. The five franchises generated over \$800,000, which was placed in the City's General Fund.

Since 1974, the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") has prohibited the practice of auctioning cable television franchises for cash. The FCC has required that the local franchise authority examine the applicant's legal, character, financial and other qualifications and the adequacy and feasibility of its construction and service promises in selecting the franchisee. Any lump sum payments must be deducted from the franchise fee and amortized over the term of the franchise. This policy caused the City, under the franchising procedure ordinance, to advertise the franchises for sale and

award to the bidder offering the highest non-monetary bid, i.e. number of public access channels, public access studio equipment, system channel capacity, construction schedule, and the like.

In 1975, the City contracted with a consultant to examine the viability of franchising the remaining non-franchised areas of the City. The consultant's report "Cable Communication in Los Angeles – Master Plan" was published in 1976 and contained recommendations for institutional services, interconnection, system configuration, terms and conditions for new and renewal franchises, rate regulation, and franchise enforcement procedures. While several of the consultant's recommendations were implemented, the report did not fully anticipate the growth and popularity of distant signal programming available over cable systems from satellite services. As a result, several of the areas determined by the consultant not to be viable for franchising received franchise applications from potential cable operators and franchises were awarded.

The initial franchises were renewed at the end of 1976, all with the expiration date of January 7, 1987. These franchises contained minimum requirements for basic service consisting of a downstream capacity of 25 channels, two way capacity, one video access channel expandable to four, a facility for members of the community to produce programming to show on the access channel, and minimum cable system technical requirements. These franchises also contained language which required interconnection among and between the various cable systems, at a time and manner as the Board might later specify.

In 1979, the City combined the transportation functions of several departments, including the Department of Public Utilities and Transportation with the Department of Traffic to form the Department of Transportation. The new department inherited the City's franchise regulation functions including cable television franchises. The new Board of Transportation Commissioners took on the responsibility of evaluating and recommending to the City Council whether to award additional franchises as bid proposals were received for unserved areas of the City. The new department monitored construction and established rates for the additional franchises that were awarded by the City Council from 1980 through 1983.

The initial franchises covered areas of the City with over 800,000 of the City's 1,200,000 homes. These initial six franchises encompassed the changes occurring within the cable industry around the nation. Los Angeles experienced the longest franchising process in the history of the industry. The City faced, and successfully defended a major antitrust and first amendment lawsuit, challenging the City's fundamental authority to franchise cable systems. One of the franchisees claimed it had "over-bid" the franchise and requested permission to downgrade the design of its proposed system from 106 video channels to 77 channels. Another operator simultaneously completed the City's first dual cable 106-channel system. Several of the initial investor groups requested permission to assign or sell existing operations to limited partnerships controlled by other corporate interests not otherwise holding a City franchise.

In late 1981, the City took its first step toward developing a comprehensive cable television policy for Los Angeles. The Council's Industry and Economic Development Committee recommended a multi-year study to produce guidelines for setting standards for awarding franchises and increasing revenue to the City. An interdepartmental Telecommunications Task Force ("Task Force") was formed and a consultant was hired to lead the effort. The final report of the Task Force was published in September 1984 and contained recommendations addressing the reorganization of telecommunications administration, cable television access administration and utilization, interconnection of cable television systems; and refranchising, renegotiation, and renewal.

As a result of the work by the Task Force, the City Council adopted an ordinance establishing the new Department of Telecommunications and transferred to it all cable television matters previously administered by the Department of Transportation. The newly created department included a general manager with a five person advisory board.

Subsequently several actions by both the State and the Federal Government have altered the City's regulatory authority over cable television. The State Government Code Section 53066 provided for the deregulation of all rates for qualifying cable operators. In 1984, the federal government enacted the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, which removed the City's authority to regulate rates two years after of the December 29, 1986. The federal legislation also established a franchise renewal procedure and limited franchise fees payable to the City to 5% of the cable operators' gross revenues. The legislation limited future franchise promises to cable-related services and facilities, and explicitly encouraged franchises to seek cable system channel capacity and equipment for public, educational and governmental access purposes, as well as capital grants from the cable operator to support those activities.

In August 1987, the City Council and Mayor approved replacement or renewal franchises for a majority of the franchises operating in the City. Those replacement franchises were model franchises for the rest of the country. Some of the progressive provisions include the following:

1. Interconnection of all cable systems in the City so that the three channels dedicated for public, education, and government access could be carried simultaneously, Citywide.
2. Consumer Service Standards, which established a "bill of rights" for cable consumers.
3. Technical performance standards, which set out requirements for the technical operation of a cable system, to ensure good, quality technical service and performance.
4. 60 channel minimum system capacity, to ensure diversity of programming categories and sources.
5. Equipment and facilities for public and educational access use.
6. Universal buildout of the systems to all areas in the City.

In 1995, the Information Technology Agency was formed by combining the Information Services Department, the Communications Division from the Department of General Services, and the Telecommunications Department. Today, ITA oversees fourteen franchise areas, served by five cable operators. The franchises generate over twenty million dollars annually in franchise fees to the City.

Since the 1987 franchise agreements, the cable industry, both nationwide and within the City, has undergone substantial consolidation. Virtually all of the City is served by four of the Nation's largest cable operators.

RE: MOTION #5

Stone, Louise

From: nroyal9259@aol.com
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2005 6:58 PM
To: avawrightsman@hotmail.com; Stone, Louise
Subject: Motion for General Meeting

My motion to the Board at the General Meeting on July 13 is as follows:

Motion: That all future meetings relative to Home Depot are to be held in an open forum with the Sunland-Tujunga Stakeholders effective immediately. presented by Nina Royal

My statement in support of this motion.

The letter received from Home Depot Reps, dated 6-16-05 clearly indicates what thier intentions are. They intend to build a Home Depot on the K-Mart site whether or not we approve of them. The Sunland-Tujunga community now needs to be a part of the process in it's united stance against that Home Depot without compromise.

Note: Bylaws rev. 2.72 as approved by DONE through Certification, May 2003, Article III B. 4. state meetings are "To be fair,open, and transparent in the conduct of business.