

Bob Mollette

3rd Ward Councilman

1705 Franklin Blvd.
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Phone: 740-353-0099
email: mollette@mollette.info
website: www.mollette.info

Correspondence#: 06-015

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Honorable Council Members
728 Second Street
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Re: **Broadcast City Council Meetings (Tape Delay) on Adelphia Communication**

Communication is key to our future success. The City has many challenges ahead and the citizens must be a part of those challenges and not victims. City Council must provide a transparent government to create an environment which encourages public involvement and open communication with our constituents. As in other municipalities, City Council Meetings need to be broadcast to the public on our local cable franchise. The meetings may be replayed numerous times to meet the diverse schedules of the working public. A tape delay permits the public to hear accurate information without the interpretations. Adelphia has made the offer to broadcast these tape delays of Council Meetings at no cost to the City. Adelphia stated the only requirement was to provide the meeting on a VHS tape and provide a list of times to replay the meeting. Adelphia stated, unlike other franchises throughout Ohio, the City's franchise agreement requires a policy to be enacted by City Council to permit the broadcasting of City Council Meetings. They also remarked on how the viewing of Council Meetings at other franchise locations has been very successful.

While visiting our sons in the City of Nashville I have watched Council, Zoning Board, Planning Commission, and Safety Meetings replayed routinely on the local cable franchise. The programming also provides information to the public concerning frequently asked questions. A co-worker informed me about the advantages of a tape delay broadcast of City Council Meeting on local networking. He expressed his appreciation for the availability of the Waverly City Council Meetings on cable networking due to his work schedule and associated conflict with attending council meetings. This action by Council would send a positive signal to the public. A signal that would encourage involvement by the general public, a way in which the Legislative actions of Council would be accessible to the general public, and a way for the speedy dissemination of vital information. A well-informed public has many advantages.

Another option to consider in the future would be web broadcasts viewable on the internet.

As always, I welcome your thoughts on this issue and look forward to implementing a policy to satisfy the franchise agreement with Adelphia Communication to provide the public with a broadcast of City Council Meetings.

Respectfully,



Bob Mollette, 3rd Ward Council

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cc: Jim Kalb, Mayor
Trent Williams, Auditor
David Kuhn, Solicitor
Crystal Gilliam, Adelphia Area Manager Government Affairs
Jo Ann Aeh, City Clerk (Record)