

# Bob Mollette

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Councilman

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February 4, 2008

Steve Cuckler, Manager of Government Relations ([steve.cuckler@twcable.com](mailto:steve.cuckler@twcable.com))  
Time Warner Cable  
1600 Watermark Drive, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

### Re: Ohio News Network (ONN) Programming on Time Warner Cable

On December 30, 2007, I was contacted by constituents expressing distress over Time Warner Cable's decision to move the Ohio News Network (ONN) from the basic cable programming to a premium channel selection (100). This requires subscribers to pay an additional \$7.52 for equipment to receive ONN programming. It is felt due to the content of the ONN programming it warrants the widespread distribution on basic cable programming and not as a premium channel selection. It is felt ONN is dedicated to Ohio residents and news events which should be available to all residents. ONN is viewed as an important station for regional, state, and national cable news broadcast on the only twenty-four (24) hour statewide news network in Ohio.

On January 7, 2008 I relayed those concerns during our phone conversation which led to another phone conversation on January 17, 2008. To summarize that conversation, it was reported Time Warner Cable (TWC) transmits ONN throughout Ohio and recently moved the programming to a premium channel selection to standardize the offerings throughout Ohio. It was stated it will free up band width for high definition channels and standardize service for the long term to better offer new services and enhancements in the future.

I reviewed our Cable Television Franchise Agreement for relevant information. Section 6.1 Programming and Channel Tiers states the parties recognize that current law prohibits the City from requiring specific programs on the Cable Television System. The Grantee (TWC) agrees to provide a broad and diverse mix and quality of programs. The Franchise Term is listed in Section 4.3 and states the agreement shall expire on November 1, 2009 unless renewed, revoked or terminated sooner as provided in the agreement.

I informed my constituents of the above particulars and a question arose as to how a cable company under contract, that offers ONN within the basic cable programming, can move the same programming to a premium channel selection which increases the cost to the users. It was accepted this issue may not be resolved until the franchise agreement expires.

I visited the ONN website at [www.onnnews.com](http://www.onnnews.com) for additional information. The ONN webpage (updated February 22, 2007) indicated the TWC broadcast of ONN programming to the Ohio communities of Apple Valley, Ashtabula, Athens, Conneaut, Geneva, Ironton, and Port Clinton is on channels 19, 26, 27, or 71.

This letter is provided to document constituent concerns and encourage TWC subscribers to express their views and desires. If you should have any additional information, questions, or comments contact me.

Respectfully,



Bob Mollette, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Advocate and Representative on City Council

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cc: 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Constituents  
Honorable Council Members (5)  
Ohio News Network, Tom Griesdorn, VP/General Manager ([Tom.Griesdorn@ohionewsnow.com](mailto:Tom.Griesdorn@ohionewsnow.com))  
Jim Kalb, Mayor  
Michael Jones, Solicitor  
Trent Williams, Auditor  
Jo Ann Aeh, Clerk (Record)