

**Government Relations and Utilities Committee**  
**Minutes January 10, 2006 Meeting**

*The meeting was called to order in the Swim and Tennis Club facility by the Chairman, Tony Mitchell at 7 PM. Members present were Tony Mitchell, Del Ritchhart, Janet Hoy and Richard Auderheide. RB residents present included T.J. Skill, Eileen Haag and Don Schmidt.*

- The first item on the agenda involved concerns about a recent cable TV mailing to all customers regarding an optional monthly “insurance” fee to cover the costs of cable repairs within the exterior walls of the homes of subscribers. The issue was raised by three community members: P.J. Skill, Eileen Haag and Don Schmidt. Mr. Skill discussed the background associated with continuing problems, dating back to the early 1960s, of getting good TV reception provided to residents of Rancho Bernardo. The three residents have been very active over the years working to require the succeeding chain of cable TV providers in RB to provide satisfactory reception and service to RB customers.

It is their contention that this latest offering .by Time Warner Cable to charge \$2.95 per month for “insurance” to provide repairs within the homes of it’s RB customers is in violation of the franchise agreement between the original cable provider and the City of San Diego. According to the three residents, the original franchise agreement states that the cable provider will be responsible for fixing and repairing any problems with the cable system all the way to the individual TV sets—not just to the junction at the outside wall of the homes. To the best of their knowledge, the original franchise agreement has been accepted by each succeeding TV provider, throughout the chain of ownership changes since originally ratified in the early 1960s. They do not know of any amendments to the charter that would relieve Time Warner Cable of the requirement to do all repairs up to the connection point with the individual TVs.

They asked that we be prepared to support their efforts to eliminate the proposed monthly “insurance” fee by Time Warner Cable. Janet Hoy indicated she had a meeting in the near future with City Councilman Maienschein and asked Mr. Skill if he or any of the three residents would like to accompany her to discuss this issue. They felt it was too early for that. The committee and the three residents agreed our next move was to bring this to the attention of the full community council. They will continue to explore the matter to further insure that the proposed charge is in fact in violation of the current franchise agreement and will keep us informed. It was suggested by the committee that Time Warner should be contacted on this matter and given a chance to respond to the concerns prior to taking this to local government and city officials.

- Following the meeting with the three concerned residents the committee discussed what course of action to pursue. It was agreed that Del would request a copy of the Franchise Agreement from Don Schmidt. We also decided the next step was to bring this to the attention of the full Community Council at the next meeting.
- Tony provided the committee with a proposed Statement of Purpose for the committee. He asked that we review it and submit any proposed revisions to him as soon as possible.

He then suggested that we should contact each of the local utilities to designate a POC to facilitate future liaison with the respective utilities. Assignments were as follows: Janet—SDG&E; Del—Time Warner Cable; Tony—SBC & MCI and Richard—Water Department.

- Del then proposed a schedule for Government Relations Reports at the monthly Community Council meetings. Following a discussion of the matter, it was agreed to present the proposed schedule at the next Community Council meeting. The proposed schedule is attached. In accordance with the committee's liaison assignments, the affected offices will be contacted regarding the proposed schedule.
- Tony also indicated that Annual Reports from the committees is due. If any members have input, they should be provided to Tony.

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.*

### **Government Relation Liaison Reports Schedule**

Pam Slater Price staff—every meeting  
 Brian Maienschein staff—every meeting  
 Mayor Sanders staff—every meeting  
 George Plescia staff—every other meeting  
 Senator Hollingsworth staff—every other meeting  
 Cunningham replacement staff—every other meeting  
 Duncan Hunter staff—every other meeting

**Even Months**—Price, Maienschein, Sanders, Plescia, Cunningham

**Odd Months**—Price, Maienschein, Sanders, Hollingsworth, Hunter