

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 22, 2009

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Leo P. Rogers, County Attorney
Jody Puckett, Communications Director/Cable Administrator

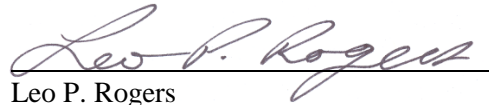
SUBJECT: Cable Franchise Renewal

James City County has begun the process to renegotiate the franchise agreement with Cox Communications. We are targeting May 2010 as the completion date for a new cable franchise ordinance to be adopted by the Board of Supervisors. In addition, negotiations on the County's fiber contract with Cox Communications will take a parallel track using a similar target date.

A major component of the renewal negotiations is to obtain objective, empirical data through a community needs assessment. This will involve stakeholder groups and community feedback. The Cable Communications Committee has worked diligently to develop a community survey that will provide data on cable customer service, technical quality, and our public, education, and government (PEG) channels. The survey will be conducted in October 2009 and will be made available on-line and at County buildings as a mail-in survey. A public input meeting will be held late October as another opportunity for citizen feedback.

An additional internal stakeholder group representing public safety, Williamsburg-James City County Schools, libraries, Economic Development, Communications, Information Technology, and budget and finance will be formed to collect feedback and data on future needs of the fiber network and cable services.

Once feedback and data are collected, the County Attorney's office will enter into negotiations with Cox. See the attached key dates for an outline of the process.


Leo P. Rogers

Jody Puckett

LPR/gb
CableRenewal_mem

Attachment