



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
Information Technology Department  
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3050  
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

---

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** David Ramsay, City Manager  
**From:** Brenda Cooper, Chief Information Officer  
**Date:** July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009  
**Subject:** Response Letter to Barry N. Brinkman

## RECOMMENDATION

That City Council signs the attached letter to Mr. Brinkman. In addition, Council may wish to direct staff to prepare a memo to the Washington State Utility Commission.

## BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

Robust telecommunications infrastructure is important to the economic health of our community. The City has a vested interest in doing what we can as a city to assure that the telecommunications carriers in Kirkland provide the services needed by our citizens and businesses. However, our role is somewhat limited.

Verizon Communications has indicated that they intend to transfer their wire line (regular home telephone) internet (VoIP telephony) and cable (television) services to Frontier Communications. They are transferring these assets in a number of states, and in most cases the transfer is in a rural area.

There is some concern that Frontier may not have the resources or experience that the City has been able to draw on through Verizon. While the City has very limited influence in what happens with the telephone and internet part of their business, we do have some voice in the transfer of their video cable franchise. Staff is attempting to evaluate whether or not Frontier will be able to deliver adequate services in that area. Kirkland is trying to partner with other interested jurisdictions on the topic so that we can pool our resource in light of funding limitations.

At this point staff does not have a formal recommendation for Council part of which may include writing a letter to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC).

If Council chooses to write a letter to the WUTC, it would be premature to state that Kirkland wants them to block the sale as Mr. Brinkman advises since we have not reached any final conclusions about Frontier Communications. We could draft a letter to them advising that we have concerns if you wish us to do so.

RECEIVED

JUL 15 2009

CITY OF KIRKLAND  
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

**Barry N. Brinkman**

2456 196<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE  
Sammamish, WA 98075

425-557-8844  
[bbrink41@yahoo.com](mailto:bbrink41@yahoo.com)

July 13, 2009

The Honorable James L. Lauinger  
Kirkland City Council  
123 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Kirkland, WA 98033

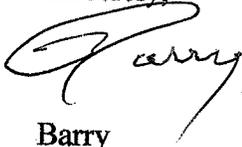
Dear Jim,

Not sure that you remember me, but I serve on the King County Municipal League. We recently spoke concerning the candidacy of Tom Hodgson. I appreciated your comments and shared them with the committee.

I am now contacting you about a potential problem facing Kirkland and other eastside cities. Specifically the sale of Verizon Communications' territory in Washington. Verizon is requesting approval of the Washington Public Utility Commission of this sale to Frontier Communications. If this sale is approved, the future of landline phone communications will be negatively impacted, and will have a negative impact on the quality of life in Kirkland. Frontier does not have the finances to maintain and expand the communications infra-structure. This will affect landlines, internet and TV as offered by Verizon. Being a former employee of Verizon gives me the perspective of how this will impact Kirkland.

What I am suggesting is to contact the Washington Public Utility Commission and your legislative representatives, and ask them to block this sale.

Sincerely,



Barry

PS: Good luck on your future plans.

August 4, 2009

**DRAFT**

Barry N. Brinkman  
2456 196<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE  
Sammamish, WA 98075

Re: Response to your letter dated July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Dear Mr. Brinkman:

Thank you for your letter dated July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in which you express concern about the pending sale of Verizon's telephone and video services in Washington. We agree that it is a significant transfer of a key service, and that telecommunications infrastructure is important for the quality of life here in Kirkland.

The City does have an important role to play in the proposed Verizon-Frontier transfer. While the City has no regulatory jurisdiction over voice and telecommunications services regulated by the WUTC, our video services franchise with Verizon, does require that the City approve the transfer prior to the parties closing the sale of the video services and related assets. This is similar to the authority of other local jurisdictions that in Washington State that have issued video service franchises to Verizon. The City has received Verizon's formal request for permission to transfer the video services franchise. City staff is evaluating the request for transfer and do not yet have a recommendation for Council about whether to approve or not.

The City's review and decision is bound both by the terms in our franchise with Verizon and by Federal Commission rules which create certain procedural rights for Verizon.

On the voice services and telecommunications services, your suggestion that alerting the WUTC as to the importance of this Kirkland and other current Verizon communities may be a good one. We can make a more informed decision on this issue once staff has finished reading and evaluating the documents we have been provided with by Verizon and Frontier.

Please stay in touch as you learn of actions by other Washington communities. This is an important sale proposal and alerting the affected communities to act to protect their interests is a real service to everyone. The lead staff on this project is Brenda Cooper,

who is our Chief Information Officer. If you would like to speak with Ms. Cooper, she can be reached at (425) 587-3051 or [bcooper@ci.kirkland.wa.us](mailto:bcooper@ci.kirkland.wa.us).

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to the City's attention.

Sincerely,  
Kirkland City Council

By James L. Lauinger, Mayor

cc: Marie Stake, Communications Program Manager  
Brenda Cooper, Chief Information Officer  
Janice Perry, Multimedia Services Manager  
Oskar Rey, Assistant City Attorney