



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Information Technology Department
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MEMORANDUM

To: Marilynne Beard, Acting City Manager

From: Brenda Cooper, Chief Information Officer

Date: September 23, 2009

Subject: Letter to Gail Mason Regarding Proposed Transfer of FIOS Franchise to Frontier

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council authorize Mayor Lauinger to sign the attached letter to Gail Mason.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

On Monday, September 21st, Gail Mason sent an email to the City Council entitled "Verizon FIOS sale to Frontier." The verbatim text of that email reads:

I would like to voice my concern and objection to the proposed transfer of the FIOS franchise to Frontier. I hope the City of Kirkland council will look out for its citizens whom, like myself, subscribed to FIOS when it was made available with the understanding that it was a bundle deal with the established and well known Verizon. As part of the FIOS change, the alternate cable/copper wire phone service were disabled, so we are now a 'captive audience' of Verizon. I certainly would not have made this move had I known that it will be sold to a yet unknown rural communications company (Kirkland is not rural, and our needs are not such!). I hope the council does not approve this sale, and if it does, that it requires Verizon to restore all the FIOS households' outside and indoor wiring to their previous state for those citizens who do not wish to make the move to Frontier.

Thank you,

*Gail Mason
916 18th Ave West
Kirkland, WA 98033
828-0161*

This letter is a response to her email.

DRAFT

October 6, 2009

Gail Mason
916 18th Ave West
Kirkland, WA 98033

RE: Verizon Request to Transfer its Video Franchise to Frontier

Dear Ms. Mason:

Thank you for your letter to the Kirkland City Council regarding the possible sale of Verizon's video franchise to Frontier Communications. Your concerns relate to the larger transfer of services including the bundled services you now receive.

The city's role in this issue is limited to whether or not to allow the transfer of the video franchise from Verizon to Frontier. The City has no authority over the merger between the two companies, but is instead essentially evaluating the question of whether Frontier should "inherit" the same video cable franchise agreement that we have with Verizon, or develop a different agreement given that Frontier is a different company.

You do have an opportunity to address the larger transfer issue through the Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission which is responsible for approving the sale of the telephone lines. They will hold a public hearing at on October 15, 2009 at 6 p.m. in Everett, at Everett Community College, 2000 Tower Street, Everett, WA 98201 at 6 p.m. before its full hearing in December to determine whether the transaction is in the best interest of ratepayers. Those who can't attend are encouraged to submit their comments in writing to the WUTC at P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504, via e-mail at comments@utc.wa.gov, or over the phone at 888-333-9882

Sincerely,
Kirkland City Council

By James L. Lauinger, Mayor