CITY OF ___________________________

RESOLUTION NO. ___________________

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT
OF
THE PROTECTING COMMUNITY TELEVISION ACT

WHEREAS, the City of _____________________ is a member of
_________________________________________________
Commission (the “Commission”), a Joint Powers Commission organized pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 471.59 [or 238.08], as amended, and includes the municipalities of ____________________________
Minnesota (collectively the “Member Cities”);

WHEREAS, the Commission negotiates and manages the cable franchises agreements of
the Member Cities and operates ________________________________, a local community public
educational and governmental (“PEG”) access facility on behalf of the Member Cities;

WHEREAS, _______________________________ provides coverage of local community
events and issues, non-profits and charities, local high school sports and academic programs,
business and chamber of commerce programs, government meetings, candidate information and
election coverage, local history, public health information, and many other programs that
broadcast stations (i.e. WCCO, KSTP, KMSP, and KARE) typically will not cover, and, in light
of rapidly decreasing local print media, _______________________[Access Entity] may soon be
the sole local media source providing local coverage;

WHEREAS, ____________________________ [Access Entity] is funded through franchise fee
and PEG fee revenues negotiated in the cable franchise agreements with local cable providers;

WHEREAS, the Member Cities require, as part of the cable franchise agreements, that
cable companies meet demonstrated community needs by providing non-monetary franchise
requirements such as live signal transport from schools or city halls to master control facilities
and complimentary cable television services that benefit the Member Cities, local schools, public
safety buildings, as well as __________________________ [Access Entity];

WHEREAS, in 1984 Congress defined a franchise fee as a “tax, fee, or assessment,” and
for the past 35 years, it has been solely a monetary fee;

WHEREAS, in 2019 the FCC departed from the clear language of the Cable Act and
passed an Order ruling that a franchise fee is both a monetary and non-monetary fee and
permitting cable companies to unilaterally assign a value to the non-monetary franchise
requirements and then subtract that amount from the franchise fees the cable operator pays to the
local community;

WHEREAS, the FCC Order results in substantial reductions in vital funding to the
Member Cities and ____________________________ [Access Entity];
WHEREAS, the Protecting Community Television Act (currently S. 3218 / H.R. 5659) has been introduced in Congress with the goal of maintaining the status quo by reversing the FCC Order and allowing franchise fees to be calculated as they have been for over 35 years as monetary only fees; and

WHEREAS, this legislation is supported by the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties, the Alliance for Community Media, the League of Minnesota Cities, NATOA and MACTA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City calls on Congress to pass legislation, such as the Protecting Community Television Act, which would undo the FCC’s action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City urges all House members and Senators from Minnesota to cosponsor the Protecting Community Television Act.

Passed and adopted this ___ day of __________________________, 2020.

CITY OF __________________________

By: ______________________________
   Its Mayor

ATTEST:

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