

COMMISSIONERS' ORDER/RESOLUTION NO. O/R-37-10

AN ORDER/RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HR 3745, THE
COMMUNITY ACCESS PRESERVATION ACT (CAP).

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WHEREAS, public, educational and government (PEG) access channels are one of the last surviving sources for local television programming across the country, and PEG access channels play a significant role in Kenton County, Boone County and the Cities of Bromley, Covington, Crestview Hills, Edgewood, Elsmere, Ft. Mitchell, Ft. Wright, Independence, Kenton Vale, Lakeside Park, Ludlow, Park Hills, Ryland Heights, Taylor Mill, and Villa Hills; and

WHEREAS, The Telecommunications Board of Northern Kentucky (TBNK)'s PEG television studio has been producing public service television for Northern Kentucky since 1998, and televises a wealth of programming focused on our Northern Kentucky communities, which have largely been ignored by Cincinnati Broadcasters for decades; and

WHEREAS, PEG channels contribute to the democratic process by providing opportunities for candidates and others to discuss local issues on the air during election campaigns, through community election forums and debates sponsored by many different organizations, as well as airing "Get Out The Vote" PSA's; and

WHEREAS, the Telecommunications Board of Northern Kentucky (TBNK) and the TBNK Government Channels 15 and 16 produce and televise a wide range of election programs, including the only Northern Kentucky focused election night television program, and numerous election forums and debates leading up to election night for city, county, state, and national races, which have included, the 2008 - McConnell-Lunsford Debate, the 2006 - Lucas-Davis Debate at NKU, the 2004 - Clooney-Davis Debate at NKU, the 2007 - NKY Chamber Gubernatorial Primary Debates, the 2003 - Fletcher-Chandler Gubernatorial debate at NKU, and the 2003 - NKY Chamber's Fletcher-Chandler Gubernatorial Forum, some of which also aired on the C-SPAN2 national network; and

WHEREAS, the Telecommunications Board of Northern Kentucky (TBNK) and the TBNK Government Channels 15 and 16 produce and televise over 25 local government meetings every month, including city councils, fiscal courts, Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky and Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission meetings, contributing to open and transparent government and keeping citizens informed about the actions taken by local elected officials; and

WHEREAS, the TBNK Government Channels 15 and 16 help provide important information from local governments, promote community services and economic development, and produce numerous public affairs talk shows with officials from member cities and counties, programs with the county libraries, county parks and NKY

solid waste management, Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce events, and Northern Kentucky history programs, as well as numerous informational programs about initiatives such as the Census, and Link-GIS; and

WHEREAS, The Devotion Channel 17 is used by many local churches, temples, and synagogues of all faiths for significant outreach efforts and to televise their services to a wider cable television audience, making services available to the sick and shut-ins; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Kentucky University channel, Norse 18, provides distance learning classes and many other educational and cultural programs from Northern Kentucky University, including graduations, school events and arts and information; and

WHEREAS, the TBNK Educable channel 20, televises hundreds of programs every year from both the Kenton County and Boone County School systems and the Covington Independent Schools that keep families and the community informed and in touch with the schools, including graduations, academic competitions, sports, talent shows, science fairs, awards ceremonies, school events and information, and other educational programs for all ages; and

WHEREAS, the TBNK Main Event Channel 22 provides a vast amount of Northern Kentucky Sports and community event coverage, including over 30 high school basketball games and 15 high school football games each season, many Thomas More College football and basketball games, and local swimming, diving and cross country meets, as well as numerous community fairs, festivals and events; and

WHEREAS, Since 1998 the TBNK has produced a wide array of programming that has been an asset to the entire Northern Kentucky community, and the TBNK has partnered with numerous Northern Kentucky organizations to create such programming, including many civic and social service organizations, local governments, regional government agencies, residents, churches, libraries and schools, which rely on the TBNK channels for such media coverage; and

WHEREAS Northern Kentucky residents and community organizations also use the TBNK studio facilities and the Northern Kentucky Community TV channel 21 to get their message out to the public and to produce their own programming, which provides a window through which viewers can experience the diversity of culture and entertainment, recreational activities, community events, faith based programming and artistic endeavors in their local community...creating television for the people and by the people; and

WHEREAS, it is important to preserve PEG channels and the much needed funding for PEG facilities and operations, and to ensure that the channels continue to be available to the entire community to serve the residents of Kenton County, Boone County and the Cities of Bromley, Covington, Crestview Hills, Edgewood, Elsmere, Ft.

Mitchell, Ft. Wright, Independence, Kenton Vale, Lakeside Park, Ludlow, Park Hills, Ryland Heights, Taylor Mill, and Villa Hills; and

WHEREAS, HR 3745, the Community Access Preservation (CAP) Act, provides important solutions for critical and immediate threats to PEG channels and facilities across the country by removing use restrictions on Public, Educational and Government (PEG) access fees, restoring PEG revenue streams, and ending cable operators' discriminatory treatment of PEG channels.

WHEREAS, The CAP Act would allow PEG Fees to once again be used for any legitimate PEG expense, instead of restricting PEG fees to capital expenses only, and will prohibit the discriminatory practice of converting PEG Channels to smaller internet quality pictures on the television screen, as some cable operators have begun doing.

NOW, THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY
OF COVINGTON, KENTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY:

Section 1

That the City of Covington Board of Commissioners hereby supports immediate passage of HR 3745. The Board of Commissioners further calls on our Congressional delegation to take all possible actions in support of the passage of HR 3745, including but not limited to endorsing, co-sponsoring and voting for HR 3745 and to work for its rapid passage.

Section 2

That this order/resolution shall take effect and be recorded according to law.

ATTEST:

Gracy W. Spenham
CITY CLERK

Passed: 3/16/10

Meeting Date:	ORDINANCE	1st Reading:	2nd Reading:	3rd Reading:	ROBT	CAP	Yes	No	Present	Absent
	RESOLUTION									