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January 26, 2015

REF: EXE-013-15

Honorable Members of the City Council
City of Los Angeles
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: Innovation, Technology & General Services

Subject: **CHANNEL 35 CITYVIEW CABLE and WEB CASTING, INCLUDING
USE OF COUNCILPHONE, FOR FIRE COMMISSION MEETINGS (CF
NO. 14-0674 - ENGLANDER-BLUMENFIELD MOTION)**

Dear Councilmembers:

The information provided herein is in response to Los Angeles City Council (City) motion – CF No. 14-0674 (Englander-Blumenfield) - instructing the Information Technology Agency (ITA) with the assistance of the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) to report on the carriage of cable and web casting, including the use of Council Phone, for LAFD Commission meetings on the City's governmental access channel, LA CityView Channel 35 (Channel 35). This report addresses the financial issues and possible scheduling dates for implementation of such coverage.

ITA is pleased to announce that the Fire Commission meetings are now aired live on Council Phone utilizing existing staff and budget. A soft launch was aired on January 20, 2015. Callers (City staff and the public) can now listen to live LAFD Commission meetings by dialing Council Phone at the numbers below:

- Downtown (213) 621-CITY
- San Pedro (310) 547-CITY
- West Los Angeles (310) 471-CITY
- Van Nuys (818) 904-9450

Archived audio of recent commission meetings are also available on LAFD's Commission YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/lafirecommission>.

ITA included a request to the Mayor for consideration as part of the FY 2015-16 proposed budget for LAFD Commission meeting video coverage. The request includes



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funding to support purchase and installation of camera equipment and staffing to record and broadcast the commission meetings on L.A. CityView Channel 35 and webcast on lacity.org.

BACKGROUND

Currently, Channel 35 provides coverage and carriage of the following City Commissions on its governmental access channel. Channel 35 records and cablecasts the following Commission meetings:

- DWP – Every first and third Tuesday of the month
- Harbor - Every first and third Thursday of the month
- LAPD – Every Tuesday of the month of the month
- LAWA – Every first and third Thursday of the month

These four Commission meetings generally air on Channel 35 the day after the meeting with one repeat on Saturdays. In addition, the proprietary departments, DWP, Harbor, LAWA, as well as the LAPD host and stream their meetings on their respective websites. The proprietary departments pay for this coverage via transfers to Channel 35. Coverage for LAPD is funded in the station's operating budget.

In order to evaluate feasibility of carriage of the LAFD Commission meetings on Channel 35, there are two costs to consider.

First, there are the one-time infrastructure costs related to rewiring and equipping the LAFD Commission meeting room facilities to ready it to support filming of LAFD meetings for carriage on Channel 35 LACityview. The City's Telecommunications Fund 342 has sufficient funding in its one percent Public, Educational and Governmental Access account to cover the re-wiring and equipping of the LAFD Commission meeting room facilities. Under federal law, the one percent PEG monies can only be used to construct PEG facilities and equipment for those facilities. ITA has determined that this would be an appropriate use of the PEG funds if the meetings are subsequently made available to the public either in audio or video format via Channel 35's cable casting and website and recommends that the Council and Mayor approve the use of the one percent PEG monies to rewire and equip the LAFD Commission meeting room facilities.

The second component of cost to address this request is the on-going personnel cost to film the meetings. The Fire Commission meets every first and third Tuesday of the month. Assuming that they will meet 24 times per year, the anticipated operational costs, using contractors to record and air the Fire Commission meetings will be approximately \$20,000 per year. Neither ITA nor the LAFD have funds budgeted in this fiscal year to cover the contractor costs for such work. As an alternative to producing video content, ITA is pleased to announce that the Fire Commission meetings are now aired on Council Phone as set forth above. ITA has requested \$20,000 in the FY15-16 budget; should this be funded, the department will air video coverage of the meetings on Channel 35.

ITA is currently drafting an updated report of ITA's Five Year Fund 342 Plan to present to City Council regarding the use of the City's cable/video TV franchise and PEG fees in the next five years. (See CF Nos. 14-0926 and 14-0889.) ITA will include in that report a proposal for Channel 35 cable TV and web carriage of LAFD Commission meetings and necessary operational expenses as outlined herein.

FISCAL IMPACT

The annual operational costs for Channel 35 to provide the same level and type of coverage and carriage for LAFD Commission meetings as currently provided to other City Commissions is approximately \$20,000. ITA would utilize contractors to perform the work as it is occasional in nature and does not warrant additional full-time staff. As this new work is not funded within ITA's current budget, the department discussed this request with LAFD; however, they also do not have funding available to address the \$20,000 annual operating cost. Therefore, ITA proposes that the production of video content not commence until the next fiscal year when this work can be funded in ITA's budget and that, in the meantime, the audio content be provided through Council phone.

The purchase and installation of video/audio equipment would cost approximately \$215,000 plus construction costs including rewiring of the meeting room facilities of the LAFD Commission meeting room. The City's one percent Public, Educational and Governmental Access (PEG) fund, which under federal law is restricted to capital cost use only for PEG-related facility use, including equipment, may be used to fund these construction and equipment costs at this time, if approved by Council and Mayor.

RECOMMENDATION

ITA recommends that City Council and Mayor approve:

- 1) Recording and carriage of LAFD Commission meetings on L.A. CityView Channel 35 and Lacity.org and associated operational/contractor costs in the amount of \$20,000.00 for fiscal year 2015-2016;
- 2) Approval at this time of one percent PEG funding for the permanent purchase and installation of video/audio equipment at the estimated cost of \$215,000 in the Fire Commission Board Room plus related wiring costs of that facility.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark P. Wolf at (213) 978-3311 or William Imperial at (213) 922-8383.

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Reneker
General Manager

cc: Honorable Mayor Eric Garcetti
Honorable Ron Galperin, City Controller
Rick Cole, Office of the Mayor
Dan Caroselli, Office of the Mayor

Honorable Members of the City Council

January 26, 2015

Page 4 of 4

Honorable Councilmember Bonin

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Honorable Councilmember Blumenfield

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Honorable Councilmember Englander

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