

## NORTHERN DAKOTA COUNTY CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION 5845 Blaine Avenue Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota 55076-1401

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 4-02-2025**

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATE LEGISLATION TO MODERNIZE FUNDING FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY "PEG" (PUBLIC / EDUCATION / GOVERNMENT) PROGRAMMING

WHEREAS, the Northern Dakota County Cable Communications Commission ("NDC4") is authorized by its seven Member Cities (Inver Grove Heights, Lilydale, Mendota, Mendota Heights, South St. Paul, Sunfish Lake and West St. Paul) to negotiate and manage the cable franchise agreements of the seven cities, to provide local government programming, and to contract with the non-profit corporation Town Square Television ("TST") to provide local community Public Education and Government ("PEG") programming; and

**WHEREAS**, for over thirty-five years, NDC4 and TST have provided essential local coverage of community events and issues, non-profits and charities, school sports and academic programs, business, chamber of commerce and tourism, school board, city, county and state government meetings, candidate information and election coverage, local history, public health and education, music, arts and other uniquely local programs that broadcast stations typically do not cover; and

**WHEREAS**, in light of rapidly decreasing local media, Town Square Television is the principal, and in some cities the only professional media source providing local video and online coverage; and

WHEREAS, NDC4 and TST are funded through franchise fee and PEG fee support negotiated in the cable franchise agreements with local cable providers, which are currently limited to ONLY the revenues on traditional cable TV and NOT on streaming or internet revenues; and

**WHEREAS**, NDC4 and TST are projecting an ongoing substantial loss of franchise fee and PEG fee revenues due to the marketplace trend of "cord cutting" (traditional cable TV subscribers migrating to multiple digital video service providers that are currently NOT required to support local community PEG programming); and

**WHEREAS**, NDC4 and TST distribute essential local community programming on multiple platforms including cable TV, online streaming, and social media, to ensure access to all residents regardless of their income level or choice of technology; and

**WHEREAS**, "MACTA" (Minnesota Association of Community Telecommunications Administrators) supports legislation to Modernize the Funding for Local Community PEG Programming.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NDC4 Cable Commission offers their support to the "MACTA" (Minnesota Association of Community Telecommunications Administrators) effort to modernize local community Public, Education, and Government ("PEG") programming funding through legislative change, consistent with federal law.

Passed and adopted this 2nd day of April, 2025.

	Norther	n Dakota County Cable Communications	Commission
ATTEST:	Ву:	Mickey Kieffer, NDC4 Chair	
Dennis Pafftons			
Dennis Rafftery, NDC4 Governmen	t Programi	ming Manager	