MAY 1 3 2015

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May 8, 2015

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MAY 1 2 2015

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES MAIL ROOM

Via Regular Mail

Irene Kim Asbury, Secretary NJ Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor Trenton, NJ 08625

Re:

In the Matter of the Petition of Comcast of Monmouth County, LLC, for a Renewal Certificate of Approval to Continue to Construct, Operate and Maintain a Cable Television System in and for the Township of Middletown, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey

CE15050557

Our File No. 41000.3000

Dear Secretary Asbury:

Enclosed herewith please find the original and eleven (11) copies of the Verified Petition and Verification filed on behalf of Comcast of Monmouth County, LLC ("Comcast"), along with three (3) copies of Comcast's public Application for Renewal of a Certificate of Approval ("Application"), with respect to the above-referenced matter. Said copies of the Application have been redacted so as to protect certain confidential information contained therein. Confidential copies of the Application are being submitted simultaneously under separate cover, along with Comcast's request for confidential treatment, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:1-12 et seq.

Kindly file the Petition and please return the extra copy of this letter and Petition stamped "RECEIVED" in the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided herein.

Thank you for your kind consideration. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,

Dennis C. Linken For the Firm

DCL:dp

cc:w/enc. Lawanda R. Gilbert, Acting Director (via first class mail)

Maria T. Novas-Ruiz, Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel (via first class mail)

Heidi R. Brunt, RMC, Township Clerk (via first class mail

Fred J. DeAndrea, Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs (via first class mail)

STATE OF NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES OFFICE OF CABLE TELEVISION

SCARINCI & HOLLENBECK, LLC
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Lyndhurst, New Jersey 07071-0790
(201) 896-4100
Attorneys for Petitioner
Comcast of Monmouth County, LLC
File No. 41000.3000

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF COMCAST OF MONMOUTH COUNTY, LLC, FOR A RENEWAL CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL TO CONTINUE TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM IN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLETOWN, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

VERIFIED PETITION

Docket No.

Comcast of Monmouth County, LLC (hereinafter "Comcast" or "Petitioner"), hereby petitions the Honorable Board of Public Utilities (the "Board"), pursuant to 47 <u>U.S.C.</u> §546(c), <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:5A-15, -16 and -17, <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 14:17-6.9 and <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 14:18-13.1 *et seq.*, for renewal of a Certificate of Approval. In support of its Petition, Petitioner states as follows:

COUNT ONE

- 1. Comcast, a limited liability company duly organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, is a cable television company subject to the jurisdiction of the Office of Cable Television ("OCTV") and the Board, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq.
- Comcast maintains its principal offices at 403 South Street, Eatontown, New Jersey 07724.

- 3. On or about August 3, 1979, in Docket No. 797C-6468, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-17(a) and (b), and N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(c), the Board issued a Certificate of Approval to Monmouth Cablevision, Inc. ("Monmouth Cablevision") to construct, operate and maintain a cable television system ("System") in the Township of Middletown ("Township"). A copy of said Certificate of Approval is on file at the Board.
- 4. On or about July 1, 1981, the Board issued an Order of Approval in Docket No. 816C-6793, authorizing the transfer of the System, including the Certificate of Approval pertaining to the Township, to Futurevision Cable Enterprises, Inc. ("Futurevision"). A copy of said Certificate of Approval is on file at the Board.
- 5. On or about July 1, 1986, pursuant to an Order of Approval issued in Docket No. CM86050542, the Board approved an internal reorganization of Futurevision's parent, Storer Communications, Inc. ("SCI"), pursuant to which Futurevision changed its name to Storer Cable Communications of Monmouth County, Inc. ("Storer"). A copy of said Order of Approval is on file at the Board.
- 6. On or about September 22, 1988, pursuant to an Order of Approval issued by the Board in Docket No. CM88080942, the stock of SCI, parent of Storer, was transferred to Comcast Corporation, Tele-Communications, Inc. ("TCI") and Knight-Ridder, Inc. ("Knight-Ridder"). A copy of said Order of Approval is on file at the Board.
- 7. On or about September 12, 1990, in Docket No. CE89080734, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-17(a) and (b), and N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(c), the Board issued a Renewal Certificate of Approval to Storer to continue to construct, operate and maintain the System in the Township. A copy of said Renewal Certificate of Approval is on file at the Board.
- 8. Pursuant to an Order of Approval issued by the Board on or about November 30, 1992, in Docket No. CM92080843, Comcast Corporation acquired TCI's and Knight-Ridder's

interest in certain SCI subsidiaries, including Petitioner. Storer subsequently changed its name to Comcast Cablevision of Monmouth County, Inc. ("CMCI").

- 9. On or about May 15, 2000, in Docket No. CE00020093, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-17(a) and (b), and N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(c), the Board issued a Renewal Certificate of Approval to CMCI to continue to construct, operate and maintain the System in the Township. A copy of said Renewal Certificate of Approval is on file at the Board.
- 10. On January 30, 2003, CMCI notified the Board of its conversion to a limited liability company, to be known as Comcast Cablevision of Monmouth County, LLC, later changed to Comcast of Monmouth County, LLC, Petitioner herein.
- 11. On or about October 8, 2009, in Docket No. CE09070533, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-17(a) and (b), and N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(c), the Board issued an Automatic Renewal Certificate of Approval to Comcast to continue to construct, operate and maintain the System in the Township. A copy of said Automatic Renewal Certificate of Approval is on file at the Board.
- 12. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 14:18-13.3(a)3, on or about November 3, 2013, Petitioner submitted an Application for Renewal of Municipal Consent (hereinafter the "Municipal Application") to continue to construct, operate and maintain the System in the Township.
- 13. On or about December 15, 2014, a public hearing was held by the Township with respect to Petitioner's Municipal Application, during which all interested persons desiring to be heard were so heard.
- 14. On or about March 2, 2015, the Township adopted Ordinance No. 2015-3126 (the "Ordinance") granting to Petitioner renewal of its Municipal Consent ("Renewal of Municipal Consent") to continue to construct, operate and maintain the System in the Township. A copy of said Ordinance is annexed hereto as Exhibit A.

- 15. On or about March 18, 2015, Comcast filed its formal acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Renewal of Municipal Consent granted by the Township, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-24. A copy of said letter of acceptance is annexed hereto as Exhibit B.
- 16. The information pertaining to Petitioner on file with the Office of Cable Television, together with the information contained in its Application for Renewal of a Certificate of Approval ("COA Application"), simultaneously submitted herewith, all of which is adopted by reference thereto, establishes the requisite criteria for the continued construction, ownership, operation and management of the System in Middletown by Comcast.
- operation of the System. Further, as indicated in the COA Application and other information on file with the OCTV, Comcast possesses the necessary financial integrity and the ability to perform efficiently the proposed services and those services which may be required by the public convenience and necessity during the renewal period. The public convenience and necessity generally support the appropriateness of the issuance of a Renewal Certificate of Approval to Petitioner.
- 18. Petitioner has complied, and will continue to comply, with all rules, regulations and laws applicable to the construction, operation and maintenance of the System and will continue to provide safe, adequate and proper cable television service in the Township of Middletown and the other municipalities in which it serves.

COUNT TWO

19. Comcast repeats paragraphs 1 through 18 of COUNT ONE as if set forth fully hereinafter.

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- 20. As set forth in the Municipal Application, the COA Application and other information on file at the OCTV, the System operated by Comcast in the Township is part of larger regional Comcast and Comcast-affiliated cable television systems serving numerous other municipalities contiguous to and surrounding the Township.
- 21. As also set forth in the Municipal Application, the COA Application and other information on file at the OCTV, the Township represents an integral part of the Comcast and Comcast-affiliated regional cable television systems serving the counties of Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean. In addition, the demographics of the Township, as well as its location and other factors, mandate that cable television service be provided by Comcast as part of Comcast's and its affiliates' regional systems.
- 22. The Township portion of Comcast's and its affiliates' Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean County regional cable systems is necessary for the continued provision of safe, adequate and economical cable television service to the citizens and residents of the Township and the larger cable television systems generally. Further, continuation of Comcast's operating authority in the Township will avoid an unreasonable duplication of services which would otherwise be detrimental to the development of adequate cable television service.
- 23. Comcast is entitled to a renewal of its Municipal Consent and Certificate of Approval, pursuant to the provisions of Section 17(b) of the New Jersey Cable Television Act, N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq.
- 24. Comcast believes that a Renewal Certificate of Approval for the Township of Middletown is necessary and proper for the public convenience and will serve the public interest for reasons which include, *inter alia*, the following:

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(a) The grant of a Renewal Certificate of Approval to Comcast will ensure the

continued provision of safe, adequate and proper cable television service to the residents of the

Township;

(b) The services provided and to be provided by Comcast as set forth in its

Municipal Application and its COA Application are and will be of great benefit to the citizens

and residents of the Township;

(c) The financial strength and technical expertise of Comcast are more than

adequate to continue to construct, operate and maintain its cable television system in the

Township of Middletown; and

(d) Comcast, its officers and directors, have vast experience in all aspects of

cable television. In particular, they possess and represent the highest degree of technical and

engineering competence, significant administrative experience and a demonstrated

responsiveness to community needs. In addition to Middletown, Comcast and its affiliates hold

Certificates of Approval or other authorization to construct, operate and maintain cable

television systems in more than 340 municipalities in New Jersey, as well as additional

communities in 38 other states.

WHEREFORE, it is requested that this Honorable Board of Public Utilities issue to

Comcast of Monmouth County, LLC, a Renewal Certificate of Approval to continue to construct,

operate and maintain a cable television system in the Township of Middletown.

Respectfully submitted,

SCARINCI & HOLLENBECK, LLC

Attorneys for Petitioner

Comcast of Monmouth County, LLC

By:

Dennis C. Linken

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES OFFICE OF CABLE TELEVISION

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VERIFICATION

Docket No.

Robert D. Clifton, hereby certifies as follows:

- I am Senior Director of Government Affairs of Comcast of Monmouth County, LLC, Petitioner in the within matter.
- I am familiar with the nature and contents of the Petition to which this
 Verification is annexed.
- 3. The allegations of the Petition are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I may be subject to punishment.

Robert D. Chifton

Dated: May 7, 2015