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November 10, 2015



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**BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES** MAIL ROOM

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

In the Matter of the Petition of Comcast of New Jersey II, LLC, for a Renewal Certificate Re: of Approval to Continue to Construct, Operate and Maintain a Cable Television System in and for the Township of Fairfield, County of Essex, State of New Jersey 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 New Jersey II, 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, Director (via first class mail)

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

Denise Cafone, Township Clerk (via first class mail

Charles L. Smith III, Senior Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs

(via first class mail)

# RECEIVED

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

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BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
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SCARINCI & HOLLENBECK, LLC
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Tel.: 201-896-4100
Attorneys for Petitioner
Comcast of New Jersey II, LLC
File No. 41000.2900

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

**VERIFIED PETITION** 

Docket No.

Comcast of New Jersey II, 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

 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 800 Rahway Avenue, Union,
   New Jersey 07083.
- 3. On or about October 9, 1975, 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 in Docket No. 752-6080 to Suburban Cablevision ("Suburban") to provide cable television service in the Township of Fairfield ("Township" or "Fairfield"). A copy of said Certificate of Approval is on file with the OCTV.
- 4. On or about December 24, 1991, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-17(a) and (b), the Board issued a Renewal Certificate of Approval to Suburban in Docket No. CE91060135 to provide cable television service in Fairfield. A copy of said Renewal Certificate of Approval is on file with the OCTV.
- 5. On or about November 30, 1994, pursuant to authorization granted by the Board in its Order of Approval in Docket No. CM94080365, Suburban became a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of Comcast Corporation; Suburban subsequently changed its name to Comcast of New Jersey II, LLC, Petitioner herein.
- 6. On or about June 9, 1999, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-17(a) and (b), the Board issued a Renewal Certificate of Approval to Petitioner in Docket No. CE99040239 to provide cable television service in Fairfield. A copy of said Renewal Certificate of Approval is on file with the OCTV.
- 7. 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 August 12, 2015, Petitioner submitted an Application for Renewal of Municipal Consent (hereinafter the "Municipal Application") to continue to construct, operate and maintain a cable television system ("System") in the Township.

- 8. On or about April 13, 2015, 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.
- 9. On or about July 20, 2015, the Township adopted Ordinance #2015-09 (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 the Ordinance is annexed hereto as Exhibit A.
- 10. On or about August 12, 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.
- 11. The information pertaining to Petitioner on file with the OCTV, 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 Fairfield 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.

13. 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 Fairfield and the other municipalities in which it serves.

### **COUNT TWO**

- 14. Comcast repeats paragraphs 1 through 13 of COUNT ONE as if set forth fully hereinafter.
- 15. 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.
- 16. 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 Essex, Hudson, Middlesex and Union. 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.
- 17. The Township portion of Comcast's and its affiliates' Essex, Hudson, Middlesex and Union 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.

- 18. 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.
- 19. Comcast believes that a Renewal Certificate of Approval for the Township of Fairfield is necessary and proper for the public convenience and will serve the public interest for reasons which include, *inter alia*, the following:
- (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 Fairfield; 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 Fairfield, 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 and the District of Columbia.

WHEREFORE, it is requested that this Honorable Board of Public Utilities issue to Comcast of New Jersey II, LLC, a Renewal Certificate of Approval to continue to construct, operate and maintain a cable television system in the Township of Fairfield.

Respectfully submitted,

SCARINCI & HOLLENBECK, LLC Attorneys for Petitioner Comcast of New Jersey II, LLC

By:

Dennis C. Linken

Dated: November 10, 2015

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

SCARINCI & HOLLENBECK, LLC Attorneys-at-Law 1100 Valley Brook Avenue P.O. Box 790 Lyndhurst, New Jersey 07071-0790

Tel.: 201-896-4100 Attorneys for Petitioner Comcast of New Jersey II, LLC File No. 41000.2900

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

VERIFICATION

Docket No.

Charles L. Smith III hereby certifies as follows:

- I am Senior Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs of Comcast of New Jersey II, LLC, Petitioner in the within matter.
- 2. 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.

Charles L. Smith III

Dated: November / 2015