DENNIS C. LINKEN | Partner

dlinken@sh-law.com

Phone: 201-896-7057 | Direct Fax: 201-896-7058

March 8, 2018

Via FedEx Overnight Mail

Board Secretary

Attn: Aida Camacho Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue 3rd Floor, Suite 314 Trenton, NJ 08625

CE18030249

Re: In the Matter of the Petition of Comcast of Burlington 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 Burlington, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey Our File No. 41000.3000

Dear Ms. Camacho:

Enclosed herewith please find the original and eleven (11) copies of the Verified Petition and Verification filed on behalf of Comcast of Burlington 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

Dennis Linken Idp

For the Firm

DCL:dp

cc:w/enc. Lawanda R. Gilbert, Director (via Fedex Overnight Mail)

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

Anthony J. Carnivale, Jr., Township Clerk (via first class mail

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

4817-6231-7150, v. 1

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

SCARINCI & HOLLENBECK, LLC 1100 Valley Brook Avenue Lyndhurst, New Jersey 07071-0790 (201) 896-4100 Attorneys for Petitioner Comcast of Burlington County, LLC File No. 41000.3000

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF)
COMCAST OF BURLINGTON 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 BURLINGTON, COUNTY OF)
BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY)

VERIFIED PETITION

Docket No.

Comcast of Burlington County, LLC (hereinafter, "Comcast" or "Petitioner"), hereby petitions the Honorable Board of Public Utilities (the "Board"), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-15, 16 and 17, and N.J.A.C. 14:18-13.6, for renewal of a Certificate of Approval to continue to construct, operate and maintain its cable television system ("System") in the Township of Burlington, Burlington County, New Jersey ("Township" or "Burlington"). 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 & Telecommunications ("OCTV&T") and the Board, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq.

- Comcast maintains its principal offices at 21 Beverly-Rancocas Road,
 Willingboro, New Jersey 08046.
- 3. On or about October 18, 1973, in Docket No. 735C-5014, 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 General CATV, Inc. ("General"), to construct, operate and maintain a cable television system (the "System") in the Township. A copy of said Certificate of Approval is on file at the OCTV&T.
- 4. On or about January 24, 1978, the Board approved the transfer of the System, including the Certificate of Approval pertaining to the Township, from General to Futurevision Cable Enterprises, Inc. ("Futurevision"). A copy of the Order of Approval is on file at the OCTV&T.
- 5. On or about March 8, 1982, in Docket No. 815C-6791, 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 Futurevision to construct, operate and maintain the System in the Township. A copy of said Renewal Certificate of Approval is on file at the OCTV&T.
- 6. On or about July 1, 1988, pursuant to authorization granted by the Board in its Order of Approval in Docket No. CM8605542, Storer Cable Communications of Burlington County, Inc. ("Storer"), succeeded to the rights of Futurevision as part of an internal corporate reorganization. A copy of said Order of Approval is on file at the OCTV&T.
- 7. On or about October 7, 1988, in Docket No. CE87080863, 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, now known as Comcast, to construct, operate and maintain the System in the Township. A copy of said Renewal Certificate of Approval is on file at the OCTV&T.

- 8. On or about August 19, 2004, in Docket No. CE03050349, 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, now known as Comcast, to construct, operate and maintain the System in the Township (the "2004 Certificate of Approval"). A copy of said 2004 Certificate of Approval is on file at the OCTV&T.
- 9. The 2004 Renewal Certificate of Approval, in accordance with its underlying municipal consent ordinance, reflected and included an automatic renewal provision, pursuant to which the Burlington franchise would be subject to automatic renewal for a period of ten (10) years following its scheduled expiration date of March 4, 2018.
- 10. As set forth under N.J.A.C. 14:18-13.6, applicable to ordinances which provide for automatic renewal, in the absence of notice at least 60 days prior to expiration of the initial term of a franchise from either the cable television company or the municipality of its intention to not renew, a franchise will be deemed to automatically renew.
- 11. Neither the Township nor Comcast provided notice of its intention to not renew the Burlington franchise pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:18-13.6 prior to the deadline set forth therein for such action, as confirmed in Comcast's letter to the Township dated February 2, 2018, a copy of which is annexed hereto as Exhibit A. As set forth therein, Comcast further confirmed its intention to exercise its rights under the automatic renewal provision of the 2004 Renewal Certificate of Approval.
- 12. As a result of the foregoing, Comcast's franchise in Burlington shall be deemed to automatically renew.
- 13. Accordingly, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:18-13.6, Comcast hereby requests approval and implementation of the automatic renewal provision of the 2004 Renewal Certificate of Approval granted in Docket No. CE03050349, to continue to construct, operate and maintain the

System in the Township.

- 14. The information pertaining to Petitioner on file with the OCTV&T, together with the information contained in Petitioner's Application for Renewal of a Certificate of Approval ("COA Application") pertaining to the Township, simultaneously filed herewith, all of which is adopted by reference thereto, establish the requisite criteria for the continued construction, ownership, operation and management of the System in Burlington by Comcast.
- 15. Comcast possesses the requisite character and suitability for the continued operation of the System. Further, as indicated in the COA Application and other information on file with the OCTV&T, Comcast possesses the necessary financial responsibility 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.
- 16. 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 Burlington and the other municipalities in which it serves.

COUNT TWO

- 17. Comcast repeats paragraphs 1 through 16 of COUNT ONE as if set forth fully hereinafter.
- 18. As set forth in the COA Application and other information on file at the OCTV&T, the System operated by Comcast in the Township is part of larger cable television systems serving numerous other municipalities contiguous to and surrounding the Township.

- 19. As also set forth in the COA Application, the Township represents an integral part of the Comcast regional cable television systems serving the counties of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Salem. In addition, the demographics of Burlington, 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.
- 20. The Township portion of Comcast's and its affiliates' Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Salem 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.
- 21. Comcast is entitled to a renewal of its 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.
- 22. Comcast believes that an Automatic Renewal Certificate of Approval for the Township of Burlington is necessary and proper for the public convenience and will serve the public interest for reasons which include, <u>inter alia</u>, the following:
- a. The grant of an Automatic Renewal Certificate of Approval to Comcast will ensure the continued provision of cable television service to the residents of the Township;
- b. The services to be provided by Comcast set forth in its COA Application are 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 System in the Township; 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 Burlington, 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, Petitioner Comcast of Burlington County, LLC, hereby requests that the

Honorable Board of Public Utilities issue to Petitioner an Automatic Renewal Certificate of

Approval to continue to construct, operate and maintain a cable television system in and for the

Township of Burlington.

Respectfully submitted,

SCARINCI & HOLLENBECK, LLC

Attorneys for Petitioner

Comcast of Burlington County, LLC

By: Dennis Linken 1 dp

Dennis C. Linken

Dated: March 7th, 2018