

Town Hall  
Ward 4  
September 27, 2006

Andy Squire (for Council Member Shirley Scott): ...I am the lucky aide charged with following our Access and Cox Cable cable negotiations and licensing renewal with the City of Tucson for the Council Member. We have Ann Strine, here with us our Director of our IT Department, that is your title correct, I want to get that right. We have Randi Stepanek, also from IT, o.k., thank you, who is recording our meeting, excellent, thank you. As we start this meeting, as people have seen on probably Mayor and Council statements, we have both folks from Access Tucson here to comment obviously and folks from Cox Cable here oddly enough, it looks like you sat on opposite sides of the room. (Laughter) Are you from Cox too?

Unidentified female: No we're from Access.

Andy Squire: Do we have any Ward 4 residents, yes sir, excellent. Thank you for coming and another gentleman right back there. Great. Are either of you affiliated with Access or Cox. O.k, so here to just bring comment and do that. Councilmember Scott wanted me to ask that just to clarify, these are public forums so it's not a bad thing that folks from other parts of the community are here. This is the opportunity, these are going on for the rest

Ann Strine: One more tomorrow night.

Andy Squire: One more tomorrow evening. So again, if there's more people that need to comment tomorrow evening is another opportunity. Where will it be Ann?

Ann Strine: Ward 3. Karen Uhlich's on Grant. 1510 Grant, I think is ...

Andy Squire: That's correct. So, just west of Campbell by about three blocks, roughly. Big flag outside their building, easier to find than our building. So thank you for coming and tonight, we're a really small group so I would say please feel free to comment, fairly freely, appropriately, politely as always, as we can. Ann is gonna try to moderate and lead this but on behalf of Council member Scott, I say thank you for being here, we really appreciate your coming. She has asked, and we have a couple more folks coming in the door. Ms. Strine has asked if everybody has filled out, if they're gonna make a comment, comment sheet on the back of the survey, and please feel out the survey, welcome folks, how are ya. Good. Hi sir, how are you. Just to recap very quickly, I'm Andy Squire with Shirley Scott's office from Ward 4, this is a town hall to discuss our cable license renewal agreement, and Cox Cable and Access Tucson and all those good things. Are you guys here from Ward 4 or part of the Access group, may I ask?

Unidentified female: I'm from Sun Sounds.

Andy Squire: Oh great from Sun Sounds, absolutely. I got a call from a lovely lady from Terre de Sol(sp?). Welcome. Thank you. He works with you guys over there. So it's great to have you here. Thank you. And sir, are you a Ward 4 resident or an interested party.

Unidentified male: Yes I am but I'm (unintelligible).

Andy Squire: Ann recognized you. I'm glad you're a Ward 4 resident. Let me go over your shoulder. Yes sir.

Unidentified male: I'm with Ward 4.

Andy Squire: O.k., great. Thanks we're glad you're here. Alright, with that Ms. Strine if you would take over.

Ann Strine: Thank you Andy

Andy Squire: You're welcome.

Ann Strine: Well, I will welcome all of you too. I'm glad you came out tonight and found your way here and as Andy and I were talking ahead of time, now you know where the Clements Center is.

Andy Squire: That's right.

Ann Strine: What a great facility it is, all the fields that they have and have a gorgeous swimming pool with a water slide. Looks like fun. As Andy mentioned, we are taping this for our purposes and we have Channel 11 here tonight too. They'll film a little bit of us I don't think they'll probably show the whole meeting on their 9 o'clock news but (unintelligible).

Unidentified male: It's a half hour newscast, they couldn't.

Ann Strine: I want to give you just a little bit of background about what we're doing now and then we'll open it up to questions and comments. I will be happy to answer whatever I can, if there's a question in that regard and we have folks from Cox here who can respond if there's a question you want to direct to them. But mostly we are interested in what your comments are about any aspect of this, you know, what you think about the service you get from Cox, the quality of the picture, what you would like next, you want more HDTV, more entertainment on demand, more, more whatever, in addition to what you think about all of the access channels we have—the public, the educational and the government channel. So any aspect of service delivery of Cox is what we're looking for tonight. It is not just on the access channels, although that's something that's really important all of us, and I encourage you to comment on that if you so choose. The license is granted under the Federal cable act and it sets down the rights and obligations of both the city and the cable companies so both of us has some things that we put into

this agreement. The federal law sets the franchise rate at 5% of gross revenues and that license fee is paid to the city in compensation for the use of the rights of way. The City owns the rights of way along the streets and whatever and anybody who uses that ends up paying the city some kind of fee to compensate for the City's owning that line and taking care of it, repairing it, all of those things. In addition, the terms of the license can be set up to satisfy community needs. This is where some of the extra stuff comes in. The access channels. What do the communities need with respect to public access, educational access, governmental access and in our current license, it was negotiated with TCI, the name of the company back then in 97, transferred to Cox in about 98 and the things that came across to them, a customer service channel, customer service standard, the number of PEG channels that we have, 5% license fee and some additional funding to help support capital and operating of the PEG channels and that's the number that you see on your bill that says PEG and PEG I-net. Those two line items that are on your bill and that's what that goes for. You're probably aware that the Arizona legislature passed a law this past spring that will take effect in June, the end of June next summer. That law constrains what the license can contain. It limits the number of PEG channels and it redefines the franchise, redefines gross revenues so in essence, today we have a broader definition of gross revenues than what the state law allows so that will drop the, it's 5% of that but it will be a lower number come to the city under the state law. It is the goal of both Cox and the City to come to an agreement prior to that time. This gives us more flexibility in what we can come to in our agreement. So we're both working hard to finish this ahead of time and we're both committed to coming out with an agreement that satisfies community needs, the city's needs, Cox's needs. So we're looking for that happy place in the middle we'll all be comfortable with. So we want to hear from you tonight and whatever your comments are about this so I will just to sort of focus us to get us started I will call on those folks who have given me a speaker sheet and if those of you who have just slipped in, if you do want to speak, we ask you to fill out at least the second page of this, the first page, would you like one?, the first page is the survey which we would like you to fill out but in particular we need the second page if you'd like to speak.

Unidentified male: While they're doing that can I ask a question? What is the current number of PEG channels and how will that be effected by state's change.

Unidentified female: What did you say the state's change was?

Unidentified male: She didn't say what the change was in the number of channels.

Ann Strine: I didn't say on the number of channels. The new state law says two analog, two digital.

Unidentified male: Minimum?

Ann Strine: Maximum.

Unidentified male: Maximum number of PEG channels?

Ann Strine: Right.

Unidentified male: And how many do we have now?

Ann Strine: We have eight analog and one digital.

Unidentified female: The state law says maximum?

Ann Strine: Yes. That's what the state law does. So if we don't come to an agreement in time, that's where we'll be. If we come to an agreement ahead of time, there's room for some maneuvering.

Unidentified male: How feasible it is if Cox won't yield to get a different cable company to fill in those extra channels? Now if Cox comes through that's fine but if they don't...

Ann Strine: Let us speak to what the process of renewal is and you all probably know this better than I do so I'll let you augment what I have to say. The federal cable law was written to acknowledge that when a cable operator puts in all the equipment and all the cable, everything in a community, when they build it out, that they have a significant investment in that community and it's not at all sensible for them to just pick up and leave that. They may be able to pick up the servers and the electronic gear out of their office but they can't do anything at all to all that cable that's been strung all over town. So that would be a great loss to a cable company to be, if they had to leave that. So the law is written so that cities have a high hurdle to jump over to say that they're not going to renew the cable license and I think this is sensible because they have such an incredible investment. You don't want a whimsical act on the part of the city to say we don't want you anymore and you have to leave and they're leaving \$70, \$80, \$90 million dollar investment sitting on the ground that they can't take with them. So, the cable law says that there are some terms that the city must demand from a cable company and the cable company has an obligation to try to meet them but, if the cable company cannot meet the needs of the community, this is determined by a whole variety of of mechanisms, it's called a community ascertainment, to see what the community wants, if that can be well defined and the cable company does not meet that, than you can move on to the next step of a very formal process and the community says here cable company, this is what our needs assessment says, can you meet it. Cable company comes back and says, here's what I can do or can't do and then in our case it would be the city counsel saying yeah or nay to that and then it goes to a hearing. So they make it very difficult for a city to say, we don't want you any more. Because of all the investment. But it is possible.

Michael DiMaria: It's never happened that I'm aware of.

Stuart Thomas: Well, no team has ever come back down three day games to zero, as the Red Sox did against the Yankees. It can happen.

Michael DiMaria: Stuart, also the understanding is that we own the plan, it's not for instance that the city owns the plan.

Ann Strine: No, they own the plan.

Michael DiMaria: Cox owns the plan, we own the facility, we own all the pieces (unintelligible) the operation. And I know I remember you asking the question before. And as Ann said, there are some requirements in the federal cable act and that's frankly what we're discussing right now under those parameters a look at the legal, technical, financial qualifications of the operator. And then as Ann says, and does the operator meet community needs in light of the cost of meeting those needs. So in the discussion, that's part of the discussion that we have with the city is, that's one piece of it. But again the parameters set up in the federal cable act, the procedure and the process and that's what we've been working through on both sides. Working through what the federal process is and trying to, as Ann says, to an amicable conclusion before the state law becomes effective, because as Ann said, we do have a chance to make some modifications from that but that's.

Stuart Thomas: If indeed I asked the question before, I didn't get as clear an answer as I've gotten now.

Andy Squire: For our neighbor's sake, the folks that were not part of this whole mélange of wonderful people who love TV and make shows, can you guys introduce yourselves and I know Sam's here from our Access channel as well just so we have clarity for everybody here guys. So Michael go ahead

I'm Michael DiMaria, I'm director of Government Relations for Cox here in Southern Arizona.

And I'm Ann Doris, I'm Vice President for Southern Arizona for Cox TV.

I'm Sam Behrend from Access Tucson.

Andy Squire: These are kinda our main parties who run the show at this step and I appreciate you guys coming, everybody hear, because it helps the dialog and it also helps you know citizenry whose not maybe as involved in this process know what's going on so thank you guys. And Michael and Ms. Doris and Sam have come to the council offices and have come to talk to us about different issues pending and of course they're working with the city so we're pretty attune to all of it. That's the whole point of this is to hear from other folks as well, so I appreciate the expertise that these guys bring to the table and thank them for being here.

Unidentified male: Let me see if I understand what we're doing here tonight. In other words, we didn't put our names on those surveys, o.k., but if you pulled my survey, you'd find out that I'm a resident, o.k. I'm a Cox customer and I buy every service they offer, TV, internet, telephone, and so forth, and my survey said I'm very pleased with the

service that we're getting. But what I think I'm hearing from you is that despite the fact that I said I don't we need any changes, your telling me that the state said that we have to make some changes. Is that correct? In other words, if we just sit on this long enough, the state is gonna come in and cut the service that we're getting from Cox cable.

Ann Strine: That was the law that was passed. In the state legislature.

Unidentified male: So what are we doing? Is there any meaning to this, in other words, If Cox doesn't want to, all they have to do is sit on this and it goes away, the problem goes away. We don't have to negotiate.

Ann Strine: Cox wants to negotiate with us. We have a window between now and June 30 to come to an agreement that can potentially give us more than what the state law requires. They want to do that, we want to do that. But the city is also looking at what steps can we take to make sure that this happens before next June. These Town Halls are an opportunity for the City to hear what people want. This is part of our community ascertainment. This is part us understanding what this community wants from its cable system so some parts of it you're saying you're extremely happy with and other parts of it you're saying I wanna keep cable channel, I mean access channel. We want to hear all of these comments that people have tonight and this is part of the city hearing, Cox is here listening to it also. So this is our gathering information.

Unidentified female: It seems to me when you go back to when this is all being set up in the 70's I remember it (unintelligible) in TV/radio broadcasting they said, its in litigation, it's gonna be with the lawyers for years and years. Cable is going to be coming to Tucson, they're trying to draw the lines. Whose going to get the license to make all that money, well, I know Cox wasn't here at that time but they have taken over and they have to do certain things and I believe giving the community service is part of that agreement in order for them to be making all their money, they have to fulfill certain things and I believe that was what was set up and I'm wondering why (unintelligible).

Ann Strine: You're wondering what?

Unidentified female: Why they're wanting to renege on things?

Ann Strine: It is the city's obligation to collect the information to do the ascertainment about what the community needs. That's what we're doing here. So, if we can show Cox from good clear evidence that we can pick up from all the mechanisms we can use to gather input from the community, that this community's needs are, you know, what ever they are, then we need to talk with them about that. If we can't show that, then Cox will say I don't need to give you those channels. If channels are what we're talking about. So it's important for us to gather this information in the Town Halls. in the surveys, in focus groups, we've done a phone survey. A statistically valid phone survey. We're calling 400 Cox customers and 400 non-Cox customers to get the whole range of things. So the City's real busy trying to gather all this information which is why we ask you to tell us what you think about this. So I want to get on to your comments not me standing up

here. Let me again remind you that if you want to speak, we do want you to fill out a speaker information form and get that to me. It's on the second page of the survey. We'd like you to do a survey too, but in particular if you want to speak, we do want the speaker form. So, I'll just start down the list, so we'll make sure that everybody who wants to speak gets a chance but I think that we're small enough that we can engage in a dialog if we want to. Cary Fishman

Cary Fishman: I'm here tonight as I said before and I can be brief, that I do believe that our needs are being met as is and I really oppose any radical change that would, that it would reduce the service that we're getting from Cox Cable. There is a great deal being offered. I have, as I said, all of their service and in addition, I am involved with Access, my wife is a producer and she'll probably speak in a minute as well. And we believe that it's important that Access Tucson continue at least as well as it has been and we'd like to see it expanded but in this environment, that's wishful thinking. We do know that it's become increasingly difficult to get air time and we believe, or I believe, that Access Tucson provides programming that's not being provided by the other channels. It's important to the community to hear some things that don't necessarily draw advertising but and represent some of the aspects of medicine and so forth that are not particularly being pushed by some of the big foundations and so forth. People need to make their own decisions and I don't think they can make informed decisions without hearing the side of it they hear on Access Tucson.

Ann Strine: Thank you. Judy Fishman.

Judy Fishman: I'm the other half. I also use all the services from Cox and I'm basically happy with them. I don't see how we can do with less than nine channels on PEG. Three of them are devoted to Access and a bunch of them are devoted to education. I certainly don't want to see them cut. And I don't want to see the Access channels cut and I just feel that we should, it should be continued. I understand that there's an issue with analog and digital as well, and from what I understand analog is real important because that's the part of the stuff that gets out to the normal people that don't pay extra for digital and that's kind of important. Because if you know, o.k. we have digital, but not everybody does and they can't afford it and so therefore it's important that they be allowed to see the programming that's available on analog channels. So that's what I have to say.

Ann Stine: Thank you. Dominick Porretto? You can correct my mispronunciation of your name.

Dominick Porretto: I'm Dominick Porretto and I'm a resident here in Ward 4 and I'm also on the Board of Directors of the Tucson Rodeo Parade Committee which is a nonprofit organization here in town. I'm here tonight in support of Access Tucson. Access Tucson is an important communication service to this community. It provides many different types of programming which I think are very informative and very educational for all of us. Some of the programs that they offer are Sonorant Style, information Tucson about neighborhood meetings, Mayor and City Council meetings, City News, the Beat, Zoo News, Reek 365, and My City. That's just to name a few of the

programs that this organization offers. This programming is very informative. One of the other important factors that I feel with Access Tucson is, Access Tucson along with KOLD, Channel 13 and the parade community provide live coverage of the Tucson Rodeo. This coverage is very very important to the citizens of our community. Many of our citizens are elderly and have been going to the parade and seen the parade since their twenties when our parade first started and now are unable to come downtown to see the parade and as a result of this partnership with Access Tucson and KOLD, these people are still able to watch the parade at home and be a part of one of the greatest events that goes on in the City of Tucson. And we're not the only event that Access Tucson supports. There are many other great events in this town. So I'm asking you tonight to help support Access Tucson to keep things going and to keep us informed on all the different events that take place in Tucson. So I hope that you will join me and say Yes, keep Access Tucson so that we all can stay informed and know what's happening in our town.

Ann Strine: Lori Franklin-Garcia?

Lori Franklin-Garcia: I have been involved with Access for a couple of years and I was really thrilled to get involved with it. I've been working for 11 years within the Arts community in dance and in the community doing volunteer work and I found that this is the perfect place to try to broaden the dance organization's audiences because (unintelligible) fair shake. So I've been able to present probably 20 different groups on my dance series Tucson Dance Scene and would like to continue that, I think it's very important. Apart from that I also volunteer (unintelligible) and I enjoy that very much and (unintelligible).

Ann Strine: Stuart Thomas?

Stuart Thomas: Hi my name is Stuart Thomas. Those of you who have been to other meetings may have heard me speak. I've been with Access Tucson for 11 years and I'm going to talk about the value of Access Tucson and the PEG channels from the Voice of Democracy perspective. As a participant, from that point of view and also as a subscriber of Cox, which I am and have been for a while. Primarily because I wanted to watch Access Tucson programming, not just my own but others. There's some great shows on Access Tucson and of course I'm interested in my own, I'm not gonna deny that but it's not the only reason I want it. From a participant's point of view, I've been living in Tucson since 1986 and for most of that time, I did not have cable, I had the rabbit ears and I got by on it. But I've been doing shows for 11 years. Many of them have been for nonprofit organizations or with nonprofit organizations. Toastmasters, the American Society of Training and Development, Old Pueblo Chapter, the Tucson Nonprofit Council. And an organization I founded called the Tucson Pima County job Club. We had shows called Your Job Club on the air, and I'm not talking individual shows I'm talking about series. Helping people get jobs and then we changed it to career path (unintelligible) because I figured career is better than just a job. Now I'm doing a show called, World Harmony, Can it Happen? It's on tomorrow night, I can't make the meeting tomorrow night with Karen Uhlich. But you know the funny thing is, Karin

Uhlich was a guest on my last show. And she was talking about the Southwest Center for Economic Integrity which brings out to the public, scams. Economic scams. Of check cashing places and mortgage places and title loan companies, that kind of thing. Tomorrow night I'm having Molly McCas (unintelligible) Who used to be on the City Council, ran for mayor and I'm gonna talk about here trip through global exchange to Syria and Damascus, to talk about interviewing the immigrates that came from Iraq over there. In two weeks we've got a preview of the upcoming Amnesty International USA western conference and we've got the director of, oh yes, one of them's the director of the western conference plus three other guests, connected with, they actually have another program in connection with it, the Hopi Foundation, they have somebody from that too and somebody from Borderlinks, they have a coordinated effort with these things, we have the director (unintelligible). And two weeks later we've got a show talking about the propositions. You know we got 20 propositions coming on the ballot in November. 19 at state and one's county. We've got the lead reporter, the political reporter from the Citizen. We've got a staff writer from the Weekly, the Star (unintelligible) only because they said they'd break it down and they'd take two each, so you know, we only have an hour show so we couldn't take so many guests but we've got the Citizen, the lead political reporter and we've got the staff writer from the Weekly. I mean we're trying to do programs of value but if Access Tucson is cut, where we gonna find the opportunity to do it? Well, I will tell you we are being considered for a show on the KJOL, but we're not there yet and that (unintelligible) pays for. One of the nice things about public access is anybody can get a show. Now you don't have to watch the show if you don't think it's a good show but anybody can get a show, that's called democracy on television. It's like the commons in the olden days where people could go out and put a soap box together and talk and do their speech or in this case, flip the channel or just walk away. But where else can you get that, I tried to get a prior show that I had on channel 4, 9, 11 and 13 and 6, all of them had a money problem. All of them had a money problem. Well if you get the advertising, you know, yeah we'll consider. It's a prior show I did, to tell you what was right with this country, it's about the American spirit. And I met with the head person of everyone of those channels except for 11 and 11. But I met with program manager of Channel 11. And with Channel 6 which is the public broadcasting, locally, their concern, at that time Jack Parris was the general manager, and he said the problem is we put most of our money in Arizona Illustrated primarily. Secondarily the Desert Speaks and then we got to keep money to go digital. So from a participant's perspective, it's a voice of democracy. From a subscriber's perspective, you know we get news and information on public access we don't get from the commercial channels. If you were at a prior meeting at Ward 6, I remember it was, I mentioned that most of us saw on regular television the shock and awe when we went into Iraq. How many of us saw what Amy Goodman showed us on Democracy Now that CNN has a CNN International and what they showed domestically was what every other channel showed the shock and awe. But if you watched what she showed on CNN International, it was a split screen with shock and awe on one side and on the other side it was casualties, civilian casualties. I never knew that. It's like what Newsweek is doing I understand this current issue. Newsweek has a very placid cover for the domestic audience but and you get this online, (unintelligible) for the foreign issues, it's the fall of Afghanistan. Totally different message you know so there is value

in Access Tucson. There's also value in the other PEG channels heck where else you don't have to go downtown to watch a city council meeting you can watch it in the privacy of your own home, how great is that? You know. And I love to watch some of the Pima Community College channels, like the particular ones I like are the psychologist one, that fellow from Stanford, I forget the name at this point, is it Zimmerman or something like that? He does a great job, I really like his program. But I'm primarily concerned with Access Tucson now. As I say, consider it the voice of democracy, quite frankly, if we're gonna close down much of what Access is doing, we're putting a limitation on the voice of democracy, I ask you to consider that.

Ann Strine: Kevin Coyle?

Kevin Coyle: I'm Kevin Coyle I'm a local Ward 4 resident and homeowner and I just want to go on the record that I'm opposed to any budget cuts for Access Tucson and opposed to a cut in the number of PEG savings.

Ann Strine: Randall Freeman?

Randall Freeman: I'm Randall Freeman. I live in Ward 3, Karin Uhlich's Ward. I'm for Access Tucson. I do a lot of the channel surfing. I don't have a dog in this fight, you know. I like Access and I like Cox. But I do a lot of channel surfing and every now and then you do find a real jewel on Access Tucson. For instance, the Juneteenth celebration, you know, I just saw that maybe about a month ago. I'm just, it was a wonderful, wonderful show. It was free. The congressional debates for District 8, I thought that was very lively. Amy Goodman, this show makes sense, yeah, right, Amy Goodman, she's a little extreme sometimes but I like her. It's different, gives you a different point of view. On the TUSD and the PCC channels, you know I can say I'm a surfer and sometimes other channels just don't have anything on them. Those offbeat channels, Access Tucson, they come up with real jewels. So please, keep all the Access channels.

Ann Strine: Mitzi Tharin?

Mitzi Tharin: I'm here from Sunsounds, I'm the station manager there and what we do is read to anyone who cannot read for any reason. If they're blind, if they have vision impairment, if they have a disability, arthritis, anything that keeps them from either reading print or having a very hard time reading print and what we do is we read the newspaper every morning and every evening, we read many many many different publications and what I'm here to ask you guys is if you please get a channel on either Access Tucson where we used to be or Cox you know one of your channels and we were on Cox for many many years and we did get taken off when things switched around and I'm actually here to ask if I could get put back on. It's a service that once it did get taken off, we got many many calls. It's very good for people to have cable and then you get us for free and we do have radios that we give out to people but sometimes you're in a certain neighborhood or an area, it's not a real strong signal. And then Cox, it comes in perfect and people can just turn their TV on and listen to many, many, many different publications, things that maybe they'd love to read and they can't read anymore. Of

course, we are mostly for the elderly but we have young kids, we have all age people that also listen. So I'm actually here to ask if it is possible to get a channel so that we can get back on Cox and reach many many people that we can't reach (unintelligible).

Ann Strine: Sam

Sam Behrend: May I respond?

Ann Strine: Please.

Sam Behrend: Hi Sam Behrend, Mitzi. Would it work for you if your programming was on the SAP on one of the channels?

Mitzi Tharin: Yes it would. I've been told that. Yes.

Sam Behrend: We should talk.

Mitzi Tharin: O.k.

Ann Strine: Mike Quigley?

Mike Quigley: Hi, I'm a Ward 4 southeast Tucson resident. I want to highlight that I'm giving up my evening (unintelligible) indication that I care about this issue and in respect for my fellow Tucsonians I'll endeavor to be brief rather than eloquent. One interesting thing I want to point out is that Sam just tried to solve a problem and that's an example of communities working together as opposed to our friends at Cox who decided to do an end run around this community by getting the state legislature to change the law in our favor so they can come to us in a better bargaining position. And you just saw it happen. I want to highlight a couple of things. First off, I'm a Cox customer like this gentleman I get all of my services from them and I can't say all of them by choice some of them are because they have a geographic monopoly where I live. I can't get another cable television provider at my house. I'm at the point, basically due to their service and their tactics where I'm half a step away from asking my HOA if I can put an antenna back on my roof or going with satellite. And the thing that keeps me from going with satellite is that I wouldn't get the public access, education and government channels which I do watch on occasion. The products that I get from Cox include TV internet and telephone and the TV service is pretty dismal. I get numerous digital dropouts on first run channels, nature network affiliates on big time channels like Sundance and Sci-Fi channel. I get very serious lip sync issues. For instance, watching Turner classic movies at my house, that's like watching a bad Japanese dubbed film. The lips are movin the words aren't with it. I've had numerous service calls, I've had techs out. The problem doesn't get fixed and it's not on every channel. I also have the set top DVR I'd be happy to record some of these for you guys so you can take a look at them. The set top box that I have just does unexplained random reboots on its own. You know you can set preferences come home from work and the preferences are wrong because the thing just rebooted itself during the day. So that's the service, just so you guys know cause I know the

quality of service is something the city's supposed to be looking at. As far as their tactics, I think that the efforts in the state legislation in the last couple years and this past year in particular, just smack of a profit grab and disregarding the will of the community or a good faith effort to negotiate a better deal all around. And I'm highly disappointed in the City's missing in action status this last go around in Phoenix. Beyond that, I noticed that about the same time that bill was working through the legislature than all of a sudden my bill that I get from Cox every month and they get more from me anybody except TEP when it's hot outside, all of a sudden started breaking out the few dollars that I pay for PEG access, and I think that's a great idea I think consumers should be informed and I would like to request that Cox continue that effort and break out for me the cost of every channel that I'm paying for that I'm not watching. I'd like to see them break out the cost of the lobby effort in Phoenix to get that bill passed. I'd like to see them break out the marketing that they do and what that's costing me and I'd like to see the breakout on executive compensation as well. I've I wanna be an informed consumer, I want all the information I can get and I'd be happy to see that. I mentioned that I live in an exclusive geographic area where I have a monopoly and I can't get television service or cable from anyone but Cox. And all these things I know I'm slamming Cox here because I'm pretty disappointed in the service that I get for the money that I pay to them. But I wanna talk a little bit about the value of PEG channels just as a community service and in far disclosure here, I have had one show broadcast on Access Tucson a couple years ago. But it's not about selfishness of wanting to have yourself on the air, it's about democratizing the airwaves as somebody put it. You know you can have KFCI, you can start radio limbo but the barrier to market entry for video productions is really high. How many people, average Tucsonans have 30 grand that they can go buy cameras, they can buy an editing suite, they can get trained and they can get their product out to their neighbors and community members. Not too many of us. My friends and I are fairly well off in this town. We can afford to do that and yet we still choose to go to Access Tucson because it's more than just sitting in your bedroom and doing this. You go down there, there's a sense of community in the hallways, you learn from other people, you get stuck on something, you don't go buy the dummies book at Amazon you go to the fact desk, facilitator desk to those of you who aren't there and ask somebody how to do that. You don't call an 800 number and get some impartial tech service, you have real people. Now when I first went down there, I'll be flat out honest with you guys, I was looking to not spend 30 grand on gear and make my one little program that I had this wild idea about. Since then though, that experience was so rewarding that I volunteer for other programs in the community for groups that might not have interested members or the money to put them on. I've helped do cameras for things like the Tucson Family Fun Festival, I've worked a camera in the City (unintelligible) Connection which is the town of Oro Valley makes extensive use of as well as various members of City council. I would like to point out that I'm not originally from Tucson, I'm an East coast boy which means I have a high tolerance for being offended and yet I'm offended by the way Cox has chosen to approach this. I think the idea that the bare minimum is what the state law requires and if that's all Cox is willing to do than when can find anybody to do the bare minimum maybe it's time we found somebody else. I think the end run with the legislature is just strengthening their bargaining position and I feel sorry for the folks on City council who now are kinda behind the eight ball trying to respond to community

demand with one hand tied behind their back. That's enough clichés. If you look at the line up on Access Tucson you see shows from people like Senator John Kyl, you see shows from the Town of Oro Valley, you see city council, you see Arts programming, you see a lot of crap, I'll be straight up with that, but you know what, it's Tucson crap. It's not crap coming from LA over the major networks so even if it's crap (unintelligible). So all right, that's my little rant. I think that it's a differentiator for Tucson as I mentioned I'm from the east coast. There's nothing like this back east. Were there cable franchises back east that required public access, that means you bring them the tape and maybe they'll put it on the air. There's no facility like Access Tucson, there are no channels, there's not the thriving sense of community that that helps develop. And for Tucson, I think it's a competitive differentiator for the people that live here and the city should be taking that very very seriously. So I would like to just close by asking the City to kind of do the right thing and strongly negotiate on behalf of the community and if Cox isn't interested in being a proactive member of this community, than maybe we need to find a cable provider who is. Thanks.

Ann Strine: Byron Bissell

Byron Bissell: I'm Byron Bissell and I'm a professor at the University of Arizona and I teach a commerce program and one of the things in our commerce program that we is a central theme of the program is that we enhance our student's ability to think critically. And I kinda stumbled onto Access by accident. I was bored, I was going through the newspaper and I saw an ad for volunteers so I called and I thought you know being a TV camera person, it's kinda cool so I did and I've been doing it. And what I, since then, since doing that I've learned that this is a very effective way to teach critical thinking on a wider scope. You mentioned democracy, you mentioned democracy and one of the things, you cannot have a democracy if you don't have critical thinking. And for whatever reason, critical thinking has disappeared. We see all the politics and all the stuff going on and basically it's not people thinking, it's people adopting a position and then dogmatically keeping to it. What we teach our students is, you should test your hypothesis, you believe this, then you should go check some of the opposite and test to see if your thinking's correct. And one of the shows that I helped run the camera for was some people from the University who think that that the 911 terror incident was basically a government conspiracy and that in fact, it was blown up by our own government. Now I don't happen to believe that cause I've seen the evidence on the other side. But what's that do? If you watch that, it's gonna force you to think about it. It's gonna force you to test your hypothesis. Now we don't like to do that cause it's work. We just like to believe what we believe, by God, that's it. But I watch my students when they come in and you know, they don't think critically. Our educational system does not do a good job. I don't get em till they're juniors and basically they're taught to think in a very narrow focused way. That isn't good for us and if we limit the number of PEG channels we're losing the opportunity to expand the ability to provide the citizens of Tucson the opportunity to see the other sides of things. As you said, they're some (unintelligible) shows on Access but that's o.k. cause you can learn from anybody. And my worry is it's a slippery slope. If we take three away now, next year how many's gonna be gone. And eventually we won't have any and we've lost an opportunity to enhance our ability to

think critically. And as I said this is critical and a theme of what we do in our program. Very diligent. We test them for critical thinking at the beginning and we test them at the end. And so we're very serious about it. I criticize the educational system but I also criticize the University, I criticize the City, Cox, for not promoting Access Tucson, not if we all have the TV audience it warrants keeping them. I don't think that's the fault of Access, it's the fault of people don't know it's there. People don't know what they could get out of it and if we promoted that, and looked at it from the perspective that we're enhancing critical thinking than we have a lot bigger audience and so I would encourage the city not only to negotiate to keep all of the nine PEG channels but also we should figure out a way to enhance our promotion in order to achieve that end.

Ann Strine: Lisa Jones?

Lisa Jones: My name is Lisa Jones and I've done over the years a lot of things at Access Tucson. And I think my membership goes back around 1985 and I'm in Ward 3. I wasn't planning to come here tonight but two things made me come here tonight was one a real sense of urgency. I think it's critical that this is done right and done well. The other thing is does anybody notice my T-shirt? The other thing was I had so much pride at the end of the day today. A thing I've been doing for years at Access Tucson is I'm on the crew of local matters. Local matters, so for me that means the last Wednesday of the month I spend a whole day at Access Tucson including two shows in the morning, two shows in the afternoon for, half hour shows for nonprofits. The nonprofits get to say what their message is. The give out host Vicky Evans the questions, they can say what their mission is, what their goals are, what their events are coming up, whatever it is they're about. Today we did SAAF, which happens to be the Southern Arizona Aids Foundation. It's critical. Aids is a real issue in this community. We also did an organization called Voices of Opposition, which are alternative views. Again, views you don't see everywhere. Some professors at the University started this. They do Monday night movies and lectures. It's really interesting. Another thing we had was the TREO, which is the Tucson Regional Economic Opportunities organization. They, this fellow did a fantastic talk about the things that Tucson needs about growing and another organization we had that was absolutely incredible was the Flying Samaritans who are medical community who fly down to Baja and provide. How, o.k. so, so, We do 40 shows a year. Now this is just Local Matters, I'm not even talking about Tucson Vision or Government Connection or the rodeo or going out in the community, I'm just talking about how this is how I spent today and I love it. And I've never done a day doing Local Matters that I haven't left feeling like, I mean I have real limitations about what kind of volunteer work I can do and I really I shouldn't be (unintelligible) volunteer work. So we do a show on animal crusaders and I'm nuts about animals. I can't go out (unintelligible) need a home and whatever but I came on camera at Access Tucson so that Animals Crusaders can get their word out about what they do in the community. Nonprofits are critically important in community. Their lifeblood's of the community. These people, anyway it's a way for me not only to volunteer for Access Tucson but when I run camera like for the organizations we did today, in my little way, I'm volunteering for those organizations and it's a terrific feeling. It is also on Access Tucson's part, an incredible community service because those nonprofits, when I say those, we do approximately 40

shows a year, I think today was our 483 show for nonprofits over the last few years. That's not just 483 ½ hour shows. That represents 483 organizations who are the life blood of this community and who are getting less and less support in terms of finances who need our being able to communicate what they do in the community. They serve a real community need and by serving them, Access Tucson serves the community. The other thing I do separate is I happen to produce a show called Political Perspectives and this shows I'm running now right up to the election are, I'm doing three shows alternating on three of the propositions. Stuart was absolutely right. These propositions are critical. When can you get a really extensive in-depth discussion about the propositions. I thought, gee, I could send a videotape of my show to Phoenix. Guess what? There is no public access anymore in Phoenix or any where else in this state. Access Tucson is the beam of light. Yeah Stuart that's true. There is no, so so, the people in Phoenix, they're in the dark. They are in the dark and it is really important that we don't let this incredible community resource slip by. We fill a community need. People in community need to communicate with each other. It is really truly life blood if we are to have a healthy viable community. Not only would I suggest not reducing our channels. Tucson Arizona happens to be an incredibly vital growing growing growing community so let's get more channels.

Ann Strine: Flora Edwards

Flora Edwards: My name is Flora Edwards and I also am a producer at Access Tucson and I want to describe something I read today in Fast Magazine. They described that there are two peoples that work for their company. There are those people just want set jobs and want to know what they're going to do and those people go and do it. But there are those people who are designers. Those people get paid. What is a designer? A designer is somebody who has creative imagination. Who has ideas, things for the community, things for the people, things of development where they work with the others, where they can be in a moment they can say things, by listening to others and by participating with others they can bring things to the table and come to some solution that couldn't be gotten to by sitting in your little office in your little cubicle by yourself. They're called the designers. And the (unintelligible) of Tuscon is filled, filled with extraordinary artists, you have a great potential not just with artists and people who study water and people who do politics. You've a tremendous potential here. And instead of being stuck in a little corner in a ward, we're bringing our cable TV, or bringing our, and there we are for all of the people in the living room that wouldn't come, for everybody to understand and to start thinking this process. But without this ability to because there are a limited amount of ideas, it takes energy to bring in new ideas. I call them the designers. But you need us, you really do and if you want us to buy and have money, it's important that Access and Tucson is on the map. Because that way, we have what you need and you can give us and as I look now at the rappers, who give more money to charity than Wal-Mart and the rest of the folks. Can you understand what Picasso did for France? Can you understand what the Beatles did for England? How can you not jump into this potential? This is potential. This is something that's here for you. We do it with our own energies. It's not like we're being paid. We're doing this in order to develop this society, to develop this energy, to be with you. And it's an amazing thing, all the people

jump in and before you know it you have a show. I mean what an amazing thing. I mean, will we give this away for a sidewalk. A piece of cement that's destroying the earth. Please... Thank you.

Ann Strine; Don Duckett

Don Duckett: My name's Don Duckett, I'm from southeast Tucson. And I kinda did a little prepared thing here because I'm not really good at keeping all the thoughts together standing in front of people. But at the same time you did an excellent job in the beginning walking that tightrope of trying to explain both sides of the fence and I got to learn a lot from just listening to some of the things you had to say, I appreciate it. I've also been listening to you folks. I'm the person that you folks wished would turn on to you sometimes, o.k. because I don't really watch the Access channels that much but occasionally, some of the times when I'm going through the channels though I see dead air space and I don't know what's coming on and what's gonna be good and what's an opportunity to look at something that you've worked so hard to put together and educate me on but unfortunately, I'm just not sure where to find it, how to find it, how to go about seeing it then and so, I'm one of those people that sometimes wonder do they put anything on some of these channels where there's nothing there or there's dead air or there's somebody sitting there with a grainy video that I can't really understand what they're saying and is it being used efficiently so I'm not saying it's bad to have access channels but at the same time just have difficulty finding the good content for some of the stuff that you just can't watch it cause the video is so bad and is there anybody that says gee this isn't even viewable. Now you're talking about content we're talking about the quality of the video that somebody turned in to put on the channel. And I'm not saying that's in all cases, don't get me wrong, but it's occasionally and so I have to wonder what and I assume there's no approving something you know you don't what it to censor, I realize that, but at the same time establishing a quality of not necessarily content but the quality of the product as far as visual or audio. Please don't take that personal for all the good work that many of you are doing. Just thought I'd mention it, it's not it my prepared text, I didn't know you were gonna come in here and say such nice things about the work that you do. The, what I primarily was thinking when I was sitting at home and I'll try this and (unintelligible) I'll just try to stay with the thought and as I understand the situation, taxes purchased the land on which the city is now charging another tax for accessing the right of way on the city land. While some may call this city owned, you could just as easily call it taxpayer owned. So what's really happening is that the taxpayer paid the taxes to make the purchase of the land and now the taxpayers are still paying the monthly tax to the city for the company to be allowed to provide the citizens with television, internet, phone service across the land that the taxpayers bought and own. So, it's just kinda like an ongoing forever tax. The taxes that are paid to the city through Cox communications, I assume, don't hesitate to correct me if anybody knows better, are placed into a general fund and are not earmarked specifically to secure additional right of ways or maintain or upgrade our community access or in any way to improve the quality of service that Cox provides to the people in the service area. That pretty much is left up to Cox to improve that so not too long ago I read in the newspaper and this goes along with what you were saying, don't do that (his cell phone rings), let me turn this off.

Thank you. O.k., not long ago I read in the newspaper the State of Arizona passed a law that was designed to level the field across the state so that everyone in the state was taxed at the same rate or received services that companies such as Cox or too received the services such as Cox provides. That didn't sound like a bad idea. If I recall correctly that they identified something like 4% as a reasonable standard rate maybe that's what I think I remember seeing in the paper but the question then would be why is it then in the City of Tucson and I only found this out today in making some telephone calls, they charge around 8-1/2% for Cox to do business while Comcast in the same city charges 6% and the Dish guys they don't get charged any tax for watching although they don't use right-of-ways, they just use airways but you know it's kinda like where did equal taxation ever go in this process if Cox, I'm gonna be paying 8-1/2% of the taxes of the cost or you are gonna be paying that if you're a Cox subscriber and why is it that the Comcast subscriber's gonna pay 6 and the guy who lives down the street from me with a Dish, he doesn't pay anything like that so what I'd like to see Cox doing is taking that money and putting it back on to the system for upgrading the services including HD TV, putting it back to maintain or improve the services that they provide. Essentially, my initial issue when I walked in here was the tax issue of the thing, it's a pass through tax and I didn't come in the door to talk about community access but as I sit here and I listen to you folks I you know, you need to convince me that that on community accesses, I know you're doing some good work out there and I've seen some of it but I've also seen some dead spots where nothing, the station's just sitting there dead or there's nothing on it or there's a little thing says something gonna be on in six hours or something like that so,

Unidentified female: (Unintelligible)

Don Duckett: No, but you see what I'm saying, that causes me if I hadn't come in here tonight, than I would be thinking they don't need all those channels and I don't know that you know I know you're doing some good work, I don't know if there's enough of you doing good work to fill em all but I appreciate the good work that you're doing.

Ann Strine: Let me take a minute to try to answer some of those questions and Ann and I both, if you want to pop in on this too you can, One of them was about the apparent difference in taxes between Cox and Comcast. Comcast is mostly in the county and so their agreement is with the county and the county did not strike the same agreement with them as we did with Cox. The City of Tucson has been one of the leaders in the nation in crafting a license with our cable company that provides a lot of access channels and support to those channels. So in some ways of looking at this in the last 10 years we've been very well treated in what we have had and then the question becomes as you pointed out how well have we used all of those things.

Michael DiMaria; Ann, if I can correct you. There are customers of Comcast in the City of Tucson and they do pay less. There's at least 3,000.

Ann Strine: There are some in the City. Most of them are in the county.

Michael DiMaria: Right, but I just wanted to clarify they do pay a different fee for those 3,000. (Unintelligible)

Ann Strine: And they also don't have all the PEG channels.

Unidentified female: They buy ours...

Ann Strine: They don't buy em, they get em free but they don't have all. Anyway, I wasn't here when they broke the deal so I can't explain all of them but I do know that if you compare someone in the county that it will be different because that's the county's cable agreement rather than the city cable agreement. Now you talked about taxpayers buying right of way and yes it is the taxpayer's right-of-way. That right-of-way requires maintenance. You know a lot of these utilities run down the middle of the road, you gotta fix the roads, or they're all on the side of the road. I mean the city couldn't just say we'll let anybody put anything there they want and not get anything back for it and leave it unintended but you're right. It is the taxpayer paying for something the taxpayer had already got.

Mike Quigley: I'd just like to ask you for a clarification on the point from this gentleman's speech it seems to me like you were saying that the fees that are supporting public access channels and the facility at Access Tucson are a tax by the city on the taxpayers collected by Cox. My understanding is that it is a fee that Cox pays the City for the privilege of using the taxpayer's right-of-ways to deliver the product.

Ann Strine: No. It is collected from the subscribers.

Mike Quigley: Is it a tax, though or is it a fee that is passed through?

Ann Strine: It's a fee it's not, I don't know the legal definitions of tax and fee. I would describe it as a fee but it comes out of your pocket so it may not feel any different to you.

Don Duckett: I just happened when I was sitting there typing this up tonight try to maintain some continuity I looked up "tax," a sum of money demanded by the government for its support or for specific facilities or services levied upon incomes or property for sales (unintelligible). But on the other hand a fee was for professional services.

Ann Strine: O.k., o.k. well whatever we label it here you're right. You are paying it. This is not affecting Cox's bottom line at all. The 5% franchise fee, the additional fees put on there for support of the PEG channels are all levied in addition, it is a pass through for Cox. It has not impact on them. This was a decision that the City Council made 10 years ago when this deal was, when the current license was negotiated and say this is a value to the citizens of Tucson and we are going to let this be part of what the citizens of Tucson must pay to get their cable because we believe it offers all of these other things for the city so you know if you think this is too much, you can certainly communicate with your council person that way and we can take this back to Shirley because you are in

this ward. So you're right in that regard. But this was a decision we made that the citizens wanted this and that's why we're doing this community ascertainment. What do the citizens want. Do they think this is of value to our community and if they do, we have to be ready to pay for it? And all of us pay, a little bit.

Stuart Thomas: Yeah, I'm a subscriber as I pointed out before and on my bill it's a dollar something, I have the basic, very basic service. I pay a dollar something...

Ann Strine: About \$1.35, \$1.40

Stuart Thomas: Something like that, you know and to me it's worth it and quite frankly if I didn't get the PEG channels, I'd go get the satellite. Because I want those PEG channels. By the way I live in Ward 6, I forgot to mention that when I was up there.

Ann Strine: Well, you know there are different views on this. We want to hear everybody's view of what you think about this cause you're right, you're paying.

Mike Quigley: Was he correct that the money just goes into the general fund?

Ann Strine: The 5% franchise fee goes into the general fund.

Unidentified female: I have two criticisms that I'd like to levy on this subject if it's o.k. First of all, programming on Cox is not in a timely way. For example, channel 9 news comes on, it's 5 o'clock news, and it comes on at 4:58 or something like that. It's very peculiar and it's not consistent. I mean that's just the way Cox seems to do it. The other thing is...

Ann Strine: I think everybody does it like that actually. We've gotten messed up at our house too to get two minutes of a show when we're recording it and then it ends early so

Unidentified female: That's what we do.

Ann Strine: So I don't know, is that, I doubt that it's you

Anne Doris: Would you like me to answer that Ann.

Ann Strine: Sure

Anne Doris: Are you asking a question about Channel 9 news why it comes on when it does?

Unidentified female: The 5 o'clock news comes on at 4:58

Anne Doris: You would be best served asking Channel 9. We are a distributor of content we are not a creator of content. We simply take the signal and we put it on the air. We don't editorialize on it, so we have no control. None whatsoever.

Ann Strine: That's the local station

Unidentified female: That's interesting. Another thing I wanted to, I have another one. Access Tucson has program names but if you go to the Cox TV Guide thing that's on my television, they don't put the names of the TV shows on there just say it's Access Tucson and that's it. So for this gentlemen who's looking for various programs, and doesn't know what he's gonna watch, it's no wonder because it's not provided.

Ann Strine: I'll let you answer that one too. I do know the answer to this but I thought I would let you have it.

Anne Doris: The information goes directly from all of the content providers to the electronic guide provider. They're responsible for providing them with the information. We simply distribute the information.

Stuart Thomas: I have something on, I used to have the premium channel briefly, the 30 day thing. And they came back more information that what I'm getting on my very basic. And I wondered what happened to all that good information, you know. I mean you know they put print as to you know about the show and it was good information on that which I lost when I lost my a

Unidentified male: We have premium and it's not on there either.

Stuart Thomas: Well it was when I had premium. About a year or so ago.

Michael DiMaria: We provide whatever, for instance, TV Guide channel. We get that from TV Guide who runs the scrolling guide, who runs some of the electronic guides and as Ann said those things are provided by the HBO's the Showtime's, the ESPN's, they provide the monitors that go in and fill those and we distribute that channel that fills all that information. It's not something we're accountable for.

Ann Strine: We have one more person whose requested to speak and I want to make sure to give her an opportunity and then we'll just open it up if no one else officially wants to speak we'll open it up to whatever questions you have. Debra Rollinson.

Debra Rollinson: I'm Debra Rollinson excuse me but (unintelligible) I'm not feeling too well to me you know I don't know much about government, city government or cable or anything like that but to me, the job of the city is to respond and to get to the citizens and I see that you're doing that by having this meeting tonight and I appreciate the opportunity to speak but what and I'm hearing many good things tonight but I don't think I've heard anyone talk about all of the citizens. We're usually talking about people volunteering, Local Matters, Tucson Vision and (unintelligible) but you know at Access Tucson about, I'd say about half of the citizens there are noticeably handicapped. They're either physically handicapped, they have cerebral palsy. They have schizophrenia, they're manic depressives they have Ash Berger syndrome,

(unintelligible) and as far as I know that's the only place where people like that can come and participate and in a way we all become equal partners. It's not just the handicapped people, there are normal people, we even have educated people, there are wealthy people and we're all there, if I had known this was gonna be so funny, I've gotta remember this and do it at Laffs, o.k. we're all here working together and I found it valuable that you said that some of the shows are not very good, you don't think they're worth watching. I have satellite; one of the shows on there is "Who wants to be a superhero." Now that is the most vulgar show I've ever seen. It is bogus. To me Access Tucson, I mean that's only a small part of the shows that are made there and some are better than others but I mean a lot of the value is the human value there, where you've got people who are normally disenfranchised, that normally don't have anything to do or any place to go but to sit on the side of the couch and they can come down and they help us make television. My first show there, it wasn't very good but I had the help of, I had schizophrenics work on my show, we had a hermaphrodite who worked on my show, one of the best technical people I ever met down there who worked on my show had, or still has autism. And some people, a lot of people would shy away from them but the young man's a savant. He's absolutely a savant and after I told a few other members about him I couldn't get him to work with me anymore because everybody wanted him. He was working on everybody else's show. We're not talking about dumb, I mean some are retarded, there's a show called Bellevue and the camera people are retarded. How else, what else are they gonna do in the community when you're IQ's between 50 and 70. 70 and below is retarded. Something else I was gonna say. Have you ever talked to a schizophrenic? I've talked to schizophrenics you know, I've never met a schizophrenic that was dumb. It seems like somehow brain damage, there's certain types of brain damage. The brain compensates for that in higher intelligence in some other areas. I've seen that a lot among the people there, the handicapped people there. If they don't have anything to do, we are just wasting their talents. I think it's a shame to waste the intelligence and the talents of some people because they happen to have schizophrenia or autism or cerebral palsy, those are all caused by brain damage. They were not given a level playing field and of all of you, you seem normal now, none of you seem to have any of these things but you know what, that doesn't mean that you won't end up with something, some kind of dementia. All it takes is a stroke, all it takes is a car accident, any one of us in this room could end up being very physically or mentally handicapped. (Unintelligible) is all it takes. And thank you very much.

Ann Strine: Those are all of the folks who filled out a form and requested to speak. Excuse me, I want to thank you all for coming but if there are any more comments or questions that someone would like to make or comment, I'm happy to take few more but

Stuart Thomas: Just a quick thing. It wasn't brought up this time but at a prior time, I remember Cox talked about the technical bells and whistles that they wanted to bring in and more entertaining channels and quite frankly, I don't care about the bells and whistles as a subscriber. I want democracy on television and you know, we can get bells and whistles from the regular channels, you know, 4, 9, 13's and all of that, you know it may be nice, but I'm a subscriber too and I want democracy on television.

Ann Strine: I understand. There's a whole lot of subscribers and they're certainly not all represented here tonight but I appreciate your saying what it is that you want.

Lisa Jones: Just a clarification about earlier mention about time coordination. This goes back to an old broadcast law class I took in 1983 but it used to be required that there was coordination throughout the country on time with the deregulation that happened in the early 80's that went Bye Bye when the FCC changed as well as it used to be illegal for commercials to go higher in volume and with the deregulation they do now so you know who you can thank for the deregulation. The other thing I would like to say is I'm also a Cox subscriber and if it were not for the PEG channels, I also would be doing some other kind cause to me that really is the value of Cox is the local. I can get international and national a whole lot of other ways but when I want to hear local voices, it's on the PEG channels and maybe some of it, like a minute 30 on the networks, on the local network stations. It's extremely limited. Access is where the local (unintelligible) and also the PEG the entire PEG channels.

Unidentified Male: I too am satisfied with the service as it is and in the page we got tonight from Cox it did talk about improvements they want to make and that they need certain give backs in order to make, but I didn't get any feel for what those improvements are, is there someone here from Cox that would like to address that.

Anne Doris: I think that one of the things that we do as well is that we do a lot of studies and in terms of research to our consumers as well and some of you who are our customers may have from time to time received telephone calls from research companies on our behalf or in any other forms. The one of the, we have determined is that customers who like you to have the ability to see more high definition channels. They would like to have the ability to see more entertainment on demand services. And so one of the, we are looking at the ability to do that, to be able to, we understand the differences between loss of the satellite providers and being able to have more of the channels in digital so that they have more digital options because they're many of the customers (unintelligible) those are their preferences. So as we look at our network, we want to be able to create opportunities to be able to offer our customers those services.

Unidentified Male: O.k., as far as the city asking me now that I've heard that, I don't hear anything there concrete enough for me to agree to give anything up for we're looking into this or we're trying to keep people from leaving to go satellites which is a benefit to Cox rather than the people of Tucson.

Lisa Jones: I would also like to say as somebody who has below the national poverty level income that I am really concerned about the digital. Gee, I think I went with a friend to Costco, I don't have a Costco membership but I went with a friend to Coxco and you know all the clarity on the new wiz stuff, I mean all that's great and heck, I would love to be able to afford it and I'd love to be able to do the digital. I really cannot, I am really lucky to be able to pay for food and utilities and my mortgage and my Cox cable bill for expanded basic. And so this business about going to digital I'm concerned frankly for myself and I don't know what I'm going to do but I'm also concerned about a

whole lot of other people in the community who are in my same situation who don't have either the technical sophistication and/or the funds to go to digital and do the bells and whistles in your own home and I really really hope that when you're looking at that cable license agreement that you are not, that you are really paying attention to being as inclusive as possible to the services, to as many people in the community as possible in particular people who are less advantaged, who are maybe less articulate, the people who are maybe less sophisticated, the people who maybe won't get to these meetings, maybe the people who can't drive and wanted to come here tonight or who have a clue about what this is about but they still are part of this community.

Ann Strine: I understand and the city is keeping that in mind as I think Cox is but I think one of the things we all needs to recognize is that the trend is towards digital. I think the federal government is still moving towards a February 2009 date that by then all stations, you know, all channels must be digital and you'll either have to have a digital TV or box or whatever. So this is coming

Lisa Jones: But it's an extra fee from Cox so the rest of us will simply get left behind.

Michael DiMaria: There's a difference between an all digital lineup where there's no analog channels and a digital tier of channels like we have today. There's a significant difference cause in 2009 as Ann said everyone's gonna be broadcasting in digital so it's not for instance, the analog channels will be converted to digital but if you don't have a digital TV the converter box that will (unintelligible) so you'll still see it on your TV but it's not something that, it's a different theory, it's just that all channels are going to the same platform

Unidentified male: So which rate will it be the digital rate or the analog rate?

Michael DiMaria: We'd have tiers just like you do today but you'll have different tiers as you do today, you'll have different tiers as you do today, like an analog tier, digital tier, you'll probably have different levels, they'll all be digital but they'll probably be different tiers and options you can choose from as well.

Debra Rollinson: Did you see that on TV today where China's moving out the satellites, ha, then well where's cable gonna be. It's gonna look good. They aren't saying anything the American government cause they're afraid to go up (unintelligible) to China. But it's a fact, China's beaming out the satellites. They have a beam they send right up to the thing and it makes the whole things go off. So telephone poles don't look so bad in the end.

Ann Strine: O.k., I do thank you all

Stuart Thomas: Just a quick question. I'm surprised Shirley Scott's not here.

Andy Squire: The council member I'm here representing the council member. She's been injured. She hasn't been at a council meeting for over three months. But the council member would have been happy to be here.

Stuart Thomas: I just wondered why she wasn't

Andy Squire: The council member she had an injury she had a fall she tore her hamstring and so she's in the process of recuperating. She has been out of pretty much commission for three months.

Ann Strine: If you had been watching the Mayor and Council ...

Everyone talking

Ann Strine: You would have seen that Shirley participated by telephone. .

Andy Squire: I should have announced that at the beginning of the meeting and I do apologize. Shirley will kill me now cause that's recorded. Thanks Boss, sorry.

Ann Strine: We won't share that part.

Andy Squire; She would have been here otherwise, so, and actually thanks for asking

Ann Strine: Thank you all so much for coming. You can tell your friends, you all don't need to show up again but you're certainly welcome to show up tomorrow night and if you have other folks who want to make a comment tomorrow night is our last town hall it's in Ward 3 and I do appreciate your coming. Ann or Michael do you have any closing comments that you would like to make?

Anne Doris: I would just like to thank you all for being Cox Communications customers. We appreciate that, we do, we truly do and we appreciate you're sharing your thoughts. Thank you.

Ann Strine: Thanks for coming.

Andy Squire: Yeah, thank you all.

Ann Strine: Now you struggled to get here ....