

Adopted: February 4, 2020

**CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND
RESOLUTION 05-2020**

**RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
TO AUTHORIZE NEGOTIATION OF THE VERIZON FRANCHISE
RENEWAL AND, TOGETHER WITH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY AND
OTHER MUNICIPALITIES, TO JOINTLY NEGOTIATE THE RENEWAL
OF THE VERIZON FRANCHISE**

Introduced by: Mayor & City Council

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Mount Rainier have authority pursuant to §1-708 of Local Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland and Chapter 12A of the City Code, to regulate cable television franchises within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City entered into a franchise agreement with Verizon Maryland, Inc., ("Verizon"); and

WHEREAS, the term of the franchise agreement ends in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City has received a letter from Verizon invoking the formal renewal provisions of Section 626 of the 1984 Cable Communications Policy Act, which also indicates a desire to engage in an informal process of negotiation; and

WHEREAS, the City is required to perform a needs assessment as part of any renegotiation of a franchise agreement; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest that the City enter into franchise renewal negotiations with Verizon; and

WHEREAS, the City has been invited to be part of a joint negotiation, together with Prince George's County and other municipalities, to negotiate the renewal of the Verizon franchise; and

WHEREAS, the City participated in a similar joint negotiation with the

County and municipalities when the original Verizon franchise agreement was reached and received the benefit of pooling its financial and other resources to reach an agreement that was acceptable to the City; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have determined that it is in the public interest to join with Prince George's County and other municipalities to allow the City the benefit of pooling its financial and other resources to perform the needs assessment and to negotiate the renewal of the Verizon franchise.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Mount Rainier that:

1. The Mayor and Council have determined that it is in the public interest to perform a needs assessment and negotiate the renewal of the Verizon franchise agreement and to join with Prince George's County and other municipalities in the needs assessment and negotiation process.
2. That the City staff is authorized to take those steps necessary to participate in the joint negotiation.

THIS RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER THIS 4th DAY OF February, 2020.

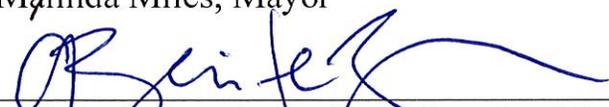
Attest:



Latasha Gatling, Interim City Manager



Malinda Miles, Mayor



Celina Benitez, Councilmember Ward I



Luke Chesek, Councilmember Ward I



Scott Cecil, Councilmember Ward II



Bryan Knedler, Councilmember Ward II