

RESOLUTION NO. 8 1989

A resolution urging the Congress of the United States to revise the Cable Communications Act of 1984, and expressing general concern about the need for greater local government regulatory authority.

**Whereas,** The Cable Communications Act of 1984 restricted states' and local governments' abilities to regulate the cable television industry directly; and

**Whereas,** since the passage of the Cable Communications Act of 1984, concentrations of ownership amounting to monopolies have increased among cable operators, even though that Act was intended to "promote competition in cable communications and minimize unnecessary regulations that impose undue economic burden on cable systems;" and

**Whereas,** communities throughout the nation, including this one, have been subjected to substantial rate increases, service reductions, and programming changes that do not reflect consumers' needs or the original intentions of their franchise agreements; and

**Whereas,** more than half of the nation's households, and more than 65% of the residents of this City subscribe to cable and cable television is increasingly becoming the main means of access to information and entertainment; and

**Whereas,** cable subscribers in this Township have been subjected to rate increases of 107 percent over the past 10 years, as well as dropping the expanded level of mid-range basic service and pricing it the same as Qube/top level of basic service.

**Whereas,** cable television is rapidly being priced beyond the reach, of lower-income people, including families with children and the elderly, who are particularly in need of information and other services that are available solely through cable television; and

Whereas, the diversity of information services promised by the 1984 Cable Communications Act has failed to materialize; and

Whereas, the promise of community access and local origination programming has not been fulfilled.

Whereas, existing law provides this Township and other franchising authorities no authority to control or question the imposition by cable franchisees of exorbitant rates upon citizens whose rights-of-way have been placed at the companies disposal by virtue of the grant of franchises;

Whereas, existing law does not allow communities as easy solution to remedy poor service response, low maintenance and long delays in our case years, in replacing bad cable. Thus making it very difficult during renewal to choose to not renew a franchise with the existing company. The burden of proof is too heavily laid on the shoulders of our community leaders.

Whereas, the National League of Cities, has adopted policies in favor of increasing local governments; cable regulatory authority and in favor of more competition in the provision of cable television service to consumers; and

Whereas, legislation that is now pending in the Congress of the United States seeks comprehensive changes in the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984.

**Therefore, Be It Resolved That:**

1. Union Township declares its support for the restoration of local regulatory authority over cable television systems.
2. The Congress of the United States should rewrite the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, with particular focus on re-regulation of subscriber rates, allowance of telephone company provision

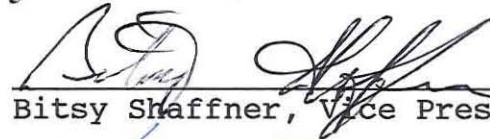
of cable service under circumstances that respect local government authority, system ownership transfers, the impact of vertical integration in the cable industry, and other aspects of the Act that directly impact local regulation and consumers.

3. The Union Township Board of Trustees urge Congressional action for appropriate federal legislation to restore local authority over cable systems, to eliminate the barriers to competition, and to rectify other aspects of the 1984 Act that work to disfavor cable consumers.

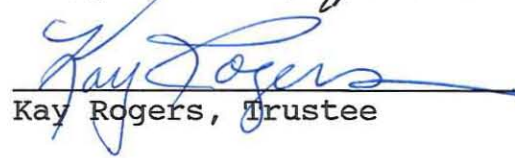
Passed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of Sept., 1989



Carlos Todd, President

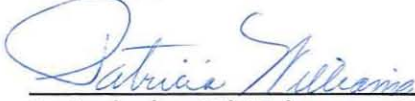


Bitsy Shaffner, Vice President



Kay Rogers, Trustee

Attest:



Patricia Williams, Clerk