

CITY OF LOWELL, OREGON

ORDINANCE 296

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING FALCON COMMUNITY CABLE, L.P., LOCALLY KNOWN AS CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS, A NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF A CABLE SYSTEM AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 230

This Franchise ("Franchise") is between the CITY of LOWELL, OREGON, hereinafter referred to as the "Grantor" and FALCON COMMUNITY CABLE, L.P., locally known as CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS, hereinafter referred to as the "Grantee."

WHEREAS, the Grantor finds that the Grantee has substantially complied with the material terms of the current Franchise under applicable laws, and that the financial, legal and technical ability of the Grantee is sufficient to provide services, facilities and equipment necessary to meet the future cable-related needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, having afforded the public adequate notice and opportunity for comment, Grantor desires to enter into this Franchise with the Grantee for the construction and operation of a cable system on the terms set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, the Cable Act requires Grantee to obtain a franchise to occupy or use the public-rights-of-way to provide Cable Service; now therefore

THE CITY OF LOWELL ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1
Definition of Terms

11 **Terms.** For the purpose of this franchise the following terms, phrases, words and their derivations shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, as amended from time to time (the "Cable Act"), unless otherwise defined herein. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words in the plural number include the singular number, and words in the singular number include the plural number. The word "shall" is mandatory and "may" is permissive. Words not defined shall be given their common and ordinary meaning.

- A. "Cable System," "Cable Service," and "Basic Cable Service" shall be defined as set forth in the Cable Act.
- B. "Board/Council" shall mean the governing body of the Grantor.
- C. "Cable Act" shall mean the Cable Communication Policy Act of 1984, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 521, et. seq.
- D. "FCC" shall mean the Federal Communications Commission and any successor governmental entity thereto.
- E. "Franchise" shall mean the non-exclusive rights granted pursuant to this Franchise to construct operate and maintain a Cable System along the public ways within the Service Area.

- F. "Gross Revenue" shall mean any and all revenue, of any kind, nature or form, without deduction for expense of whatsoever nature, of Grantee and any affiliates of the Grantee (as defined in the Cable Act) derived from the operation of the Cable System to provide Cable Services or attributed to the provision of Grantee's Cable Services delivered within the City. For purposes of the calculation of gross revenues, the revenues from subscriptions of cable service offered as a part of a bundled service shall be calculated as a proportional cost of the bundled packet with the same ratio to the total payment for the bundled service as there would be to a total cost for service calculated using the price of each service when sold separately. Grantee may deduct uncollectible amounts from customers within the corporate limits of City from these gross revenues, unless and until full or partial collection is made. Gross revenue does not include taxes, fees or assessments of general applicability required by law to be collected from subscribers for pass-through to a government agency, or revenue paid directly by the United States of America or any of its agencies, nor does it include credits, refunds and deposits paid to Subscribers. Franchise fees are not fees required by law to be collected from subscribers. Grantor acknowledges and agrees that Grantee maintains its books and records in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- G. "Person" shall mean an individual, partnership, association, organization, corporation, trust or governmental entity.
- H. "Service Area" shall mean the geographic boundaries of the Franchise Authority, and shall include any additions thereto by annexation or other legal means, subject to the exception in Section 6 hereto.
- I. "State" shall mean the State of Oregon.
- J. "Street" shall include each of the following located within the Service Area: public streets, roadways, highways, bridges, land paths, boulevards, avenues, lanes, alleys, sidewalks, circles, drives, easements, rights of way and similar public ways and extensions and additions thereto, including but not limited to public utility easements, dedicated utility strips, or rights-of-way dedicated for compatible uses now or hereafter held by the Grantor in the Service Area, which shall entitle the Grantee to the use thereof for the purpose of installing, operating, repairing and maintaining the Cable System.
- K. "Subscriber" shall mean any Person lawfully receiving Cable Service from the Grantee.

SECTION 2 **Grant of Franchise**

21 **Grant.** The Grantor hereby grants to the Grantee a nonexclusive Franchise which authorizes the Grantee to erect, construct, operate and maintain in, upon, along, across, above, over and under the Streets, now in existence and as may be created or established during its terms; any poles, wires, cable, underground conduits, manholes, and other conductors and fixtures necessary for the maintenance and operation of a Cable System.

22 **Term.** The Franchise and the rights, privileges and authority hereby granted shall be for a term of ten (10) years, commencing on the Effective Date of this Franchise as set forth in Section 14.11. Renewal discussion will be initiated in accordance with applicable law, including the Cable Act or other successor law.

23 **Police Powers and Conflicts with Franchise.** Nothing in this Franchise limits the Grantor's right to exercise its police powers by adopting ordinances necessary for the public's health, safety and general welfare. The Grantee agrees to comply with the terms of any such ordinance adopted subsequent to the adoption of this Ordinance. In the event of any conflict between this Franchise and any such ordinance adopted as an exercise of police powers, Grantee and Grantor agree to a timely negotiation in good faith of modifications to this Ordinance to accommodate these changes in law. In the event of any conflict between this Franchise and any Grantor ordinance or regulation that is not generally applicable, this Franchise shall control.

SECTION 3 **Franchise Renewal**

3.1 **Procedures for Renewal.** The Grantor and the Grantee agree that any proceedings undertaken by the Grantor that relate to the renewal of the Grantee's Franchise shall be governed by and comply with the provisions of Section 626 of the Cable Act, or any such successor statute.

SECTION 4 **Indemnification and Insurance**

4.1 **Indemnification.** The Grantee shall, by acceptance of the Franchise granted herein, defend the Grantor, its officers, boards, commissions, agents, and employees for all claims for injury to any Person or property caused by the negligence of Grantee in the construction or operation of the Cable System and in the event of a determination of liability shall indemnify and hold Grantor, its officers, boards, commissions, agents, and employees harmless from any and all liabilities, claims, demands, or judgments growing out of any injury to any Person or property as a result of the negligence of Grantee arising out of the construction, repair, extension, maintenance, operation or removal of its wires, poles or other equipment of any kind or character used in connection with the operation

of the Cable System, provided that the Grantor shall give the Grantee written notice of its obligation to indemnify the Grantor within ten (10) days of receipt of a claim or action pursuant to this section. In the event any such claim arises, the Grantor shall tender the defense thereof to the Grantee and the Grantee shall have the right to defend, settle or compromise any claims arising hereunder and the Grantor shall cooperate fully herein. If the Grantor determined in good faith that its interests cannot be represented by the Grantee, the Grantee shall be excused from any obligation to represent the Grantor. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Grantee shall not be obligated to indemnify the Grantor for any damages, liability or claims resulting from the willful misconduct or negligence of the Grantor or for the Grantor's use of the Cable System.

42 Insurance. The Grantee shall maintain throughout the term of the Franchise insurance in amounts at least as follows:

Workers' Compensation	Statutory Limits
Commercial General Liability	\$2,000,000 per occurrence, Combined Single Limit (C.S.L.) \$3,000,000 General Aggregate
Auto Liability including coverage on \$1,000,000 per occurrence C.S.L. all owned, non-owned hired autos Umbrella Liability	
Umbrella Liability	\$1,000,000 per occurrence C.S.L.

- A. The Grantor shall be added as an additional insured, arising out of work performed by Charter, to the above Commercial General Liability, Auto Liability and Umbrella Liability insurance coverage.
- B. The Grantee shall furnish the Grantor with current certificates of insurance evidencing such coverage upon request.

SECTION 5 **Service Obligations**

51 No Discrimination. Grantee shall not deny service, deny access, or otherwise discriminate against Subscribers, channel users, or general citizens on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age or sex.

52 Privacy. The Grantee shall fully comply with the privacy rights of Subscribers as contained in Cable Act Section 631 (47 U.S.C. § 551).

SECTION 6
Service Availability

61 **Service Area.** The Grantee shall make Cable Service distributed over the Cable System available to every residence within the Service Area where there is a minimum density of at least thirty (30) residences per linear strand mile of cable as measured from Grantee's closest trunk line or distribution cable that is actively delivering Cable Service as of the date of such request for service. If such residence is located within one hundred fifty (150) feet of Grantee's feeder cable, the Cable Service will be provided at Grantee's published rate for standard installations. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Grantee shall have the right, but not the obligation, to extend the Cable System into any portion of the Service Area where another operator is providing Cable Service, into any annexed area which is not contiguous to the present Service Area of the Grantee. Grantee need not make an extension to any area which is financially or technically infeasible, if it provides documentation substantiating such infeasibility to Grantor. Cable Service offered to Subscribers pursuant to this Franchise shall be conditioned upon Grantee having legal access to any such Subscriber's dwelling unit or other units wherein such Cable Service is provided. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit the Grantee's ability to offer or provide bulk rate discounts or promotions.

62 **Subscriber Charges for Extensions of the Cable System.** No Subscriber shall be refused service arbitrarily. However, if an area does not meet the density requirements of Section 6.1 above, the Grantee shall only be required to extend the Cable System to Subscribers in that area if the Subscribers are willing to share the capital costs of extending the Cable System. The Grantee may require that payment of the capital contribution in aid of construction borne by such potential Subscribers be paid in advance. Subscribers shall also be responsible for any standard/non-standard installation charges to extend the Cable System from the tap to the residence.

63 **New Development Underground.** In cases of new construction or property development where utilities are to be placed underground, the Grantor agrees to require as a condition of issuing a permit for open trenching to any developer or property owner that such developer or property owner give Grantee at least thirty (30) days prior written notice of such construction or development, and of the particular dates on which open trenching will be available for Grantee's installation of conduit, pedestals and/or vaults, and laterals to be provided at Grantee's expense. Grantee shall also provide specifications as needed for trenching. Costs of trenching and easements required to bring service to the development shall be borne by the developer or property owner; except that if Grantee fails to install its conduit, pedestals and/or vaults, and laterals within five (5) working days of the date the trenches are available, as designated in the written notice given by the developer or property owner, then should the trenches be closed after the five day period, the cost of new trenching is to be borne by Grantee.

64 **Annexation.** The Grantor shall promptly provide written notice to the Grantee of its annexation of any territory which is being provided Cable Service by the Grantee or its affiliates. Such annexed area will be subject to the provisions of this Franchise upon sixty

(60) days' written notice from the Grantor, subject to the conditions set forth below and Section 6.1 above. The Grantor shall also notify Grantee in writing of all new street address assignments or changes within the Service Area. Any identified Subscriber addresses shall be included in Grantee's franchise fee calculations within ninety (90) days after receipt of the annexation notice, which shall include the addresses that will be moved into the Service Area in an Excel format or in a format that will allow Grantee to change its billing system. If the annexation notice does not include the addresses that will be moved into the Service Area, Grantee shall include the identified Subscriber addresses in the franchise fee calculations within ninety (90) days after it receives the annexed addresses as set forth above. All notices due under this section shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested to the addresses set forth in Section 14.5 with a copy to the Director of Government Affairs. In any audit of franchise fees due under this Franchise, Grantee shall not be liable for franchise fees on annexed areas unless and until Grantee has received notification and information that meets the standards set forth in this section.

SECTION 7 **Construction and Technical Standards**

7.1 Compliance with Codes. All construction practices and installation of equipment shall be done in accordance with the National Electric Safety Code.

7.2 Construction Standards and Requirements. All of the Grantee's plant and equipment, including but not limited to the antenna site, headend and distribution system, towers, house connections, structures, poles, wire, cable, coaxial cable, fixtures and appurtenances shall be installed, located, erected, constructed, reconstructed, replaced, removed, repaired, maintained and operated in accordance with good engineering practices and performed by experienced maintenance and construction personnel.

7.3 Safety. The Grantee shall at all times employ ordinary care and shall use commonly accepted methods and devices preventing failures and accidents which are likely to causedamage.

7.4 Network Technical Requirements. The Cable System shall be designed, constructed and operated so as to meet those technical standards adopted by the FCC relating to Cable Systems contained in part 76 of the FCC's rules and regulations as may be amended from time to time, regardless of the transmission technology utilized.

7.5 Performance Monitoring. Grantee shall test the Cable System consistent with the FCC regulations.

SECTION 8
Conditions on Street Occupancy

81 General Conditions. Grantee shall have the right to utilize existing poles, conduits and other facilities whenever possible, and shall not construct or install any new, different, or additional poles, conduits, or other facilities on public property without obtaining all legally required permits of the Grantor.

82 Underground Construction. The facilities of the Grantee shall be installed underground in those Service Areas where existing telephone and electric services are both underground at the time of system construction. In areas where either telephone or electric utility facilities are installed aerially at the time of system construction, the Grantee may install its facilities aerially with the understanding that at such time as the existing aerial facilities are required to be placed underground by the Grantor, the Grantee shall likewise place its facilities underground. In the event that any telephone or electric utilities are reimbursed by the Grantor or any agency thereof for the placement of cable underground or the movement of cable, Grantee shall be reimbursed upon the same terms and conditions as any telephone, electric or other utilities.

83 Construction Codes and Permits. Grantee shall obtain all legally required permits before commencing any work requiring a permit, including the opening or disturbance of any Street within the Service Area. The Grantor shall cooperate with the Grantee in granting any permits required, providing such grant and subsequent construction by the Grantee shall not unduly interfere with the use of such Streets. The Grantee shall adhere to all building and zoning codes currently or hereafter applicable to construction, operation or maintenance of the Cable System in the Service Area, provided that such codes are of general applicability and such codes are uniformly and consistently applied by the Grantor as to other public utility companies and other entities operating in the Service Area.

84 System Construction. All transmission lines, equipment and structures shall be so installed and located as to cause minimum interference with the rights and reasonable convenience of property owners and at all times shall be kept and maintained in a safe, adequate and substantial condition, and in good order and repair. The Grantee shall, at all times, employ ordinary care and use commonly accepted methods and devices for preventing failures and accidents which are likely to cause damage, injuries, or nuisances to the public. Suitable barricades, flags, lights, flares or other devices shall be used at such times and places as are reasonably required for the safety of all members of the public. Any poles or other fixtures placed in any public way by the Grantee shall be placed in such a manner as not to interfere with the usual travel on such public way.

85 Restoration of Public Ways. Grantee shall, at its own expense, restore any damage or disturbance caused to the public way as a result of its operation, construction, or maintenance of the Cable System to a condition reasonably comparable to the condition of the Streets immediately prior to such damage or disturbance.

8.6 Removal in Emergency. Whenever, in case of fire or other disaster, it becomes necessary in the judgment of the Grantor to remove any of the Grantee's facilities, no charge shall be made by the Grantee against the Grantor for restoration and repair, unless such acts amount to gross negligence by the Grantor.

8.7 Tree Trimming. Grantee or its designee shall have the authority to trim trees on public property at its own expense as may be necessary to protect its wires and facilities.

8.8 Relocation for the Grantor. The Grantee shall, upon receipt of reasonable advance written notice, to be not less than ten (10) business days, protect, support, temporarily disconnect, relocate, or remove any property of Grantee when lawfully required by the Grantor. Grantee shall be responsible for any costs associated with these obligations to the same extent all other users of the Grantor rights-of-way are responsible for the costs related to the relocation of their facilities.

8.9 Relocation for a Third Party. The Grantee shall, on the request of any Person holding a lawful permit issued by the Grantor, protect, support, raise, lower, temporarily disconnect, relocate in or remove from the Street as necessary any property of the Grantee, provided that the expense of such is paid by any such Person benefiting from the relocation and the Grantee is given reasonable advance written notice to prepare for such changes. The Grantee may require such payment in advance. For purposes of this subsection, "reasonable advance written notice" shall be no less than ten (10) business days in the event of a temporary relocation and no less than one hundred twenty (120) days for a permanent relocation.

8.10 Reimbursement of Costs. If funds are available to any Person using the Streets for the purpose of defraying the cost of any of the foregoing, the Grantor shall reimburse the Grantee in the same manner in which other Persons affected by the requirement are reimbursed. If the funds are controlled by another governmental entity, the Grantor shall make application for such funds on behalf of the Grantee.

8.11 Emergency Use. If the Grantee provides an Emergency Alert System ("EAS"), then the Grantor shall permit only appropriately trained and authorized Persons to operate the EAS equipment and shall take reasonable precautions to prevent any use of the Grantee's Cable System in any manner that results in inappropriate use thereof, or any loss or damage to the Cable System. The Grantor shall hold the Grantee, its employees, officers and assigns harmless from any claims or costs arising out of use of the EAS, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

SECTION 9 **Service and Rates**

9.1 Phone Service. The Grantee shall maintain a toll-free telephone number and a phone service operated such that complaints and requests for repairs or adjustments may be received at any time.

92 **Notification of Service Procedures.** The Grantee shall furnish each Subscriber at the time service is installed, written instructions that clearly set forth information concerning the procedures for making inquiries or complaints, including the Grantee's name, address and local telephone number. Grantee shall give the Grantor thirty (30) days prior notice of any rate increases, channel lineup or other substantive service changes.

93 **Rate Regulation.** Grantor shall have the right to exercise rate regulation to the extent authorized by law, or to refrain from exercising such regulation for any period of time, at the sole discretion of the Grantor. If and when exercising rate regulation, the Grantor shall abide by the terms and conditions set forth by the FCC.

94 **Continuity of Service.** It shall be the right of all Subscribers to continue receiving Cable Service insofar as their financial and other obligations to the Grantee are satisfied. However, notwithstanding anything to the contrary, Grantee may discontinue or refuse to provide Cable Service to any person that is abusive and/or exhibits threatening behavior toward the Grantee's employees or representatives.

95 **Public Access Service.** Subject to applicable law, Grantee shall provide, without charge, one (1) activated outlet and equipment of Basic Cable Service to City Hall and to Lowell School District offices for the purpose of public safety and emergency alert information. The Cable Service provided pursuant to this Section shall not be used for commercial purposes and such outlets shall not be located in areas open to the public. The Grantor shall take reasonable precautions to prevent any use of the Grantee's Cable System that results in the inappropriate use thereof or any loss or damage to the Cable System. The Grantor shall hold the Grantee harmless from any and all liability or claims arising out of the provision and use of Cable Service required by this Section.

SECTION 10 **Franchise Fee**

10.1 **Amount of Fee.** Grantee shall pay to the Grantor an annual franchise fee in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the annual Gross Revenue. Such payment shall be in addition to taxes of general applicability owed to the Grantor by the Grantee that are not included as franchise fees under federal law, Franchise fees may be passed through to Subscribers as a line item on Subscriber bills or otherwise as Grantee chooses, consistent with federal law.

10.2 **Payment of Fee.** Payment of the fee due the Grantor shall be made on a quarterly basis, within forty-five (45) days of the close of each calendar quarter and transmitted by electronic funds transfer to a bank account designated by Grantor. The payment period and the collection of the franchise fees that are to be paid to the Grantor pursuant to the Franchise shall commence sixty (60) days after the Effective Date of the Franchise as set forth in Section 14.11. In the event of a dispute, the Grantor, if it so requests, shall be furnished a statement of said payment, reflecting the Gross Revenues and the applicable charges.

10.3 Accord and Satisfaction. No acceptance of any payment by the Grantor shall be construed as a release or as an accord and satisfaction of any claim the Grantor may have for additional sums payable as a franchise fee under this Franchise.

10.4 Limitation on Recovery. The period of limitation for recovery of any franchise fee payable hereunder shall be three (3) years from the date on which payment by the Grantee was due. If any Franchise payment or recomputed payment is not made on or before the dates specified herein, Grantee shall pay an interest charge, computed from the last day of the fiscal year in which payment was due, at the annual rate of one (1%) percent over the prime interest rate.

SECTION 11 **Transfer of Franchise**

11.1 Franchise Transfer. The Franchise granted hereunder shall not be assigned, other than by operation of law or to an entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Grantee, without the prior consent of the Grantor, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed. No such consent shall be required, however, for a transfer in trust, by mortgage, by other hypothecation, or by assignment of any rights, title, or interest of the Grantee in the Franchise or Cable System to secure indebtedness. Within thirty (30) days of receiving a request for transfer, the Grantor shall notify the Grantee in writing of any additional information it reasonably requires to determine the legal, financial and technical qualifications of the transferee. If the Grantor has not taken action on the Grantee's request for transfer within one hundred twenty (120) days after receiving such request, consent by the Grantor shall be deemed given.

SECTION 12 **Records, Reports and Maps**

12.1 Reports Required. The Grantee's schedule of charges for regular Subscriber service, its policy regarding the processing of Subscriber complaints, delinquent Subscriber disconnect and reconnect procedures and any other terms and conditions adopted as the Grantee's policy in connection with its Subscribers shall be filed with the Grantor upon request.

12.2 Records Required.

The Grantee shall at all times maintain:

- A. A record of all written complaints received regarding interruptions or degradation of Cable Service, which record shall be maintained for one (1) year.
- B. A full and complete set of plans, records and strand maps showing the location of the Cable System.

123 **Inspection of Records.** Grantee shall permit any duly authorized representative of the Grantor, upon receipt of advance written notice, to examine at Grantee's local office or another mutually agreeable location during normal business hours and on a non-disruptive basis any and all of Grantee's records maintained by Grantee as is reasonably necessary to ensure Grantee's compliance with the Franchise. Such notice shall specifically reference the subsection of the Franchise that is under review so that the Grantee may organize the necessary books and records for easy access by the Grantor. The Grantee shall not be required to maintain any books and records for Franchise compliance purposes longer than three (3) years, except for service complaints, which shall be kept for one (1) year as specified above. The Grantee shall not be required to provide Subscriber information in violation of Section 631 of the Cable Act. The Grantor agrees to treat as confidential any books, records or maps that constitute proprietary or confidential information to the extent Grantee makes the Grantor aware of such confidentiality. If the Grantor believes it must release any such confidential books or records in the course of enforcing this Franchise, or for any other reason, it shall advise Grantee in advance so that Grantee may take appropriate steps to protect its interests. Until otherwise ordered by a court or agency of competent jurisdiction, the Grantor agrees that, to the extent permitted by State and federal law, it shall deny access to any of Grantee's books and records marked confidential, as set forth above, to any Person.

SECTION 13 **Enforcement or Revocation**

13.1 **Notice of Violation.** If the Grantor believes that the Grantee has not complied with the terms of the Franchise, the Grantor shall first make reasonable attempts to informally discuss the matter with Grantee. If these discussions do not lead to resolution of the problem, the Grantor shall notify the Grantee in writing of the exact nature of the alleged noncompliance (the "Violation Notice").

13.2 **Grantee's Right to Cure or Respond.** The Grantee shall have thirty (30) days from receipt of the Violation Notice to (i) respond to the Grantor, contesting the assertion of noncompliance, or (ii) to cure such default, or (iii) if, by the nature of default, such default cannot be cured within the thirty (30) day period, initiate reasonable steps to remedy such default and notify the Grantor of the steps being taken and the projected date that they will be completed.

13.3 **Public Hearing.** If the Grantee fails to respond to the Violation Notice received from the Grantor, or if the default is not remedied within the cure period set forth above, the Council shall schedule a public hearing if it intends to continue its investigation into the default. The Grantor shall provide the Grantee at least twenty (20) days prior written notice of such hearing, which specifies the time, place and purpose of such hearing, notice of which shall be published by the Clerk of the Grantor in a newspaper of general circulation within the Grantor in accordance with Section 14 hereof. The Grantee shall have the right to present evidence and to question witnesses. The Grantor shall determine if the Grantee has committed a violation and shall make written findings of fact relative to its determination. If a violation is found, the Grantee may petition for reconsideration before any competent tribunal having jurisdiction over such matters

13.4 Enforcement. Subject to applicable federal and State law, in the event the Grantor, after the hearing set forth in subsection 13.3 above, determines that the Grantee is in default of any provision of the Franchise, the Grantor may:

- A. Seek specific performance of any provision, which reasonably lends itself to such remedy, as an alternative to damages; or
- B. Commence an action at law for monetary damages or seek other equitable relief; or
- C. In the case of a substantial default of a material provision of the Franchise, seek to revoke the Franchise itself in accordance with subsection 13.5 below.

13.5 Revocation.

- A. Prior to revocation or termination of the Franchise, the Grantor shall give written notice to the Grantee of its intent to revoke the Franchise on the basis of a pattern of noncompliance by the Grantee, including one or more instances of substantial noncompliance with a material provision of the Franchise. The notice shall set forth the exact nature of the noncompliance. The Grantee shall have sixty (60) days from such notice to either object in writing and to state its reasons for such objection and provide any explanation or to cure the alleged noncompliance. If the Grantor has not received a satisfactory response from Grantee, it may then seek to revoke the Franchise at a public hearing. The Grantee shall be given at least thirty (30) days prior written notice of such public hearing, specifying the time and place of such hearing and stating its intent to revoke the Franchise.
- B. At the hearing, the Council shall give the Grantee an opportunity to state its position on the matter, present evidence and question witnesses, after which it shall determine whether or not the Franchise shall be revoked. The public hearing shall be on the record and a written transcript shall be made available to the Grantee within ten (10) business days. The decision of the Council shall be made in writing and shall be delivered to the Grantee. The Grantee may appeal such determination to an appropriate court, which shall have the power to review the decision of the Council *de novo*. The Grantee may continue to operate the Cable System until all legal appeals procedures have been exhausted.
- C. Notwithstanding the above provisions, the Grantee does not waive any of its rights under federal law or regulation.
- D. Upon revocation of the Franchise, Grantee may remove the Cable System from the Streets of the Grantor, or abandon the Cable System in place.

SECTION 14
Miscellaneous Provisions

141 Force Majeure. The Grantee shall not be held in default under, or in noncompliance with the provisions of the Franchise, nor suffer any enforcement or penalty relating to noncompliance or default, where such noncompliance or alleged defaults occurred or were caused by circumstances reasonably beyond the ability of the Grantee to anticipate and control. This provision includes, but is not limited to, severe or unusual weather conditions, fire, flood, or other acts of God, strikes, work delays caused by failure of utility providers to service, maintain or monitor their utility poles to which Grantee's Cable System is attached, as well as unavailability of materials and/or qualified labor to perform the work necessary.

142 Minor Violations. Furthermore, the parties hereby agree that it is not the Grantor's intention to subject the Grantee to penalties, fines, forfeitures or revocation of the Franchise for violations of the Franchise where the violation was a good faith error that resulted in no or minimal negative impact on the Subscribers within the Service Area, or where strict performance would result in practical difficulties and hardship to the Grantee which outweighs the benefit to be derived by the Grantor and/or Subscribers.

143 Action of Parties. In any action by the Grantor or the Grantee that is mandated or permitted under the terms hereof, such party shall act in a reasonable, expeditious and timely manner. Furthermore, in any instance where approval or consent is required under the terms hereof, such approval or consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

144 Equal Protection. The Grantee acknowledges and agrees that the Grantor may be required by federal law, and reserves the right, to grant one or more additional franchises to provide Cable Service within the Service Area. If any other provider of Cable Services is lawfully and expressly authorized by the Grantor to use the Streets to provide such services, and if the material obligations applicable to Grantee are more burdensome or less favorable than those imposed on any such competing provider (such determination to be made after good faith negotiations between Grantee and Grantor), then upon thirty (30) days prior written notice to the Grantor, the Grantee shall have the right to elect, to the extent consistent with applicable state and federal laws and orders and rules adopted pursuant thereto:

- A. To modify this Franchise to incorporate less burdensome or more favorable terms or conditions imposed by Grantor on a comparable provider; or
- B. To deem this Franchise expired thirty-six (36) months from the date of the above written notice; or
- C. To terminate this Franchise and take in its place the same franchise agreement of a competing provider of Cable Services or video services authorized by the Grantor.

The Grantor and the Grantee agree that any undertakings that relate to the renewal of the Grantee's Franchise with the Grantor shall be subject to the provisions of Section 626 of the Cable Act or any such successor statute. Nothing in this Franchise shall impair the right of the Grantor or Grantee to seek other remedies available under law.

145 **Notices.** Unless otherwise provided by federal, State or local law, all notices, reports or demands pursuant to this Franchise shall be in writing and shall be deemed to be sufficiently given upon delivery to a Person at the address set forth below, or by U.S. certified mail, return receipt requested, nationally or internationally recognized courier service such as Federal Express or electronic mail communication to the designated electronic mail address provided below. Grantee shall provide thirty (30) days' written notice of any changes in rates, programming services or channel positions using any reasonable written means. As set forth above, notice served upon the Grantor shall be delivered or sent to:

Grantor: City of Lowell Oregon
 City Administrator
 PO Box 490
 Lowell, OR 97452
E-mail: jcobb@ci.lowell.or.us

Grantee: Charter Communications
 Attn: Director, Government Affairs
 222 NE Park Plaza Drive, #231
 Vancouver, WA 98684
E-mail: Marian.Jackson@charter.com

Copy to: Charter Communications
 Attn: Vice President of
 Government Affairs
 12405 Powerscourt Drive
 St. Louis, MO 63131

146 **Public Notice.** Any public meeting held relating to this Franchise or additional, similar franchises shall comply with the public meetings requirements of Oregon law. Grantee will be considered an interested party for any additional requests for franchises for Cable Services.

147 **Severability.** If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Franchise is, for any reason, held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Franchise.

148 **Entire Agreement.** The terms of this Franchise have been mutually negotiated by the Grantor and Grantee. This Franchise constitutes an agreement by the Grantor to grant permission to the Grantee to use the Grantor's rights of way subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein. The Franchise terms and conditions set forth herein, including

the Grantor's rights to protect the public's general welfare, subject to Section 2.3, constitute the entire agreement between Grantor and Grantee and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous agreements, representations or understandings (whether written or oral) of the parties regarding the subject matter hereof.

149 Previous Franchise. Enactment of this ordinance, upon its effective date will repeal previous franchise Ordinance 230.

1410 Administration of Franchise. Subject to Section 2.3, this Franchise is a contract and neither party may take any unilateral action that materially changes the explicit mutual promises and covenants contained herein. Any changes, modifications or amendments to this Franchise must be made in writing, signed by the Grantor and the Grantee.

1411 Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective 30 days after passage by the City Council. The Franchise granted herein will take effect and be in full force from the date of acceptance by Grantee recorded on the signature page of this Franchise, provided that the Grantor must receive a fully executed copy of the acceptance within thirty days of the date of acceptance. The initial term of this franchise shall expire ten (10) years from the Effective Date defined herein, subject to Section 2.2 of this franchise. If any fee or grant that is passed through to Subscribers is required by this Franchise, other than the franchise fee, such fee or grant shall go into effect sixty (60) days after the Effective Date of this Franchise.

SECTION 15 **Customer Rights and Protections**

15.1 Customer Rights and Protections. Upon installing initial service, reconnecting a customer, and upon request thereafter Grantee must advise the customer of:

- A. The equipment and services currently available and the rates and charges which apply; and
- B. The amount of any deposit required by Grantee, if applicable, and the manner in which the deposit will be refunded; and
- C. The availability of parental controls, which shall be made available in accordance with federal law to each subscriber upon request and which shall enable parents or subscribers to control access to both the audio and/or video portions of any and all channels; and
- D. All current charges, rates, and fees, including but not limited to installation and reconnection fees, that may be applied to current or potential subscribers in the franchise area; and
- E. Any information relating to a contact for the franchise authority unless the Grantor requests otherwise in writing.

15.2 The information and statements required in Section 15.1 shall be available in writing upon request.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Lowell, this ____ day of _____, 2017.

Yea: _____

Nay: _____

Approved: _____
Don Bennett, Mayor

First Reading:

Second Reading:

Adopted:

Signed:

Effective Date:

Attest: _____
Jared Cobb, City Administrator

Accepted this _____ day of _____, 2017, subject to applicable federal, State and local law.

Falcon Community Cable LP

By: Charter Communications VII, LLC, its General Partner

By: Charter Communications, Inc., its Manager

Signature: _____
Paul D. Abbott, Vice President, Government Affairs