



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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December 6, 2024

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance, which would if approved, renew cable television franchise 5602 with WaveDivision I, LLC, a Washington limited liability company doing business as Astound Broadband (Wave). The renewed franchise has a ten-year term, allowing Wave to continue serving its approximately 600 cable television customers throughout unincorporated King County. Wave's existing franchise includes an expiration date of September 11, 2023, but its terms continue pending execution of a new franchise agreement.

Since June 2023, Wave and King County worked to negotiate a successor franchise agreement. Productive negotiations resulted in the following key elements of the agreement which benefit the County and Wave customers:

- Wave will continue to operate and maintain its current 10 I-NET connection sites in the areas of Carnation and Duvall.
- To increase the number of Cable TV subscribers in unincorporated King County, Wave will conduct an annual marketing campaign during the month of September to all current and potential customers, including those who are broadband only. Results will be reported to the King County Cable Office by April 30th each year. The Office will use these results to project new subscribers and a potential increase in franchise fees paid to the County's General Fund. Wave will begin to pay a monthly public, educational, or government access (PEG) fee of \$.76 per subscriber.
- Wave will provide a \$25,000 capital technology grant in support of King County Equity and Social Justice for an upgrade of the automation system for King County

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Television. This will result in multi-language enhancement for all King County customers.

- Wave will allow for a \$1,750 customer credit for installation requests that exceed standard distances currently allowed in the franchise.
- Wave will continue to operate a local office for customers to return equipment and seek help with their accounts.

The franchise agreement contains numerous other standard provisions as required by King County Code, such as provisions for auditing and checking compliance for Wave's financial records; ensuring the County receives the required five percent franchise fees; verifying the Wave cable system meets the minimum technical compliance standards; and that all legal standards have been met

Thank you for consideration of this proposed Ordinance. If your staff have any questions, please contact Megan Clarke, Chief Information Officer, King County Information Technology, at 206-477-7067.

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

Megan Clark, Chief Information Officer, King County Information Technology