



NORTHERN DAKOTA COUNTY CABLE  
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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## MEDIA Release

Contact: Jodie Miller, NDC4 Executive Director, 651-450-9891 ext. 308  
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### NDC4 Cable Commission's Member City Councils Considering Two(2) Cable TV Franchise-related Issues

- **Extension of Comcast Cable TV Franchises to March 2017**
- **Adoption of Competitive Cable TV Franchises for CenturyLink**

*March 18, 2016—Inver Grove Heights, MN—*

#### Comcast

At its February 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Meeting, the Northern Dakota County Cable Communications Commission ("NDC4") approved a Resolution recommending that its Member Cities should extend Comcast's Cable Television Franchise Ordinance to March 31, 2017. This extension will allow time for the NDC4 Commission and Comcast to complete the informal franchise renewal negotiations process. The Resolution is now making the rounds for consideration by each of the seven Member Cities, with the following results/schedule:

- ✓ Sunfish Lake City Council passed March 2, 2016
- ✓ Mendota Heights City Council passed March 3, 2016
- ✓ South St. Paul City Council passed March 7, 2016
- ✓ Mendota City Council passed March 8, 2016
- ✓ Lilydale City Council passed March 14, 2016
- \_\_\_ West St. Paul City Council scheduled for March 28, 2016, meeting
- \_\_\_ Inver Grove Heights City Council scheduled for April 11, 2016 meeting

#### CenturyLink

At its February 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Meeting, the Northern Dakota County Cable Communications Commission ("NDC4") approved a Recommended Cable Television Franchise Ordinance to be granted to CenturyLink, for consideration by each of the seven NDC4 Member Cities, with the following results/schedule:

- ✓ Mendota Heights City Council passed March 15, 2016
- \_\_\_ South St. Paul City Council scheduled public hearing for March 21, 2016
- \_\_\_ West St. Paul City Council scheduled public hearing for March 28, 2016

- \_\_\_Sunfish Lake City Council scheduled public hearing for April 5, 2016
- \_\_\_Lilydale City Council scheduled public hearing for April 11, 2016
- \_\_\_Inver Grove Heights City Council scheduled for April 11, 2016
- \_\_\_Mendota City Council scheduled public hearing for April 12, 2016

### Background

Northern Dakota County Cable Communications Commission (“NDC4”) received a Cable Television Franchise Application from CenturyLink, the local incumbent telephone exchange carrier operating in the Commission’s seven-city franchise area, in 2015. Residents and businesses of Inver Grove Heights, Lilydale, Mendota, Mendota Heights, South St. Paul, Sunfish Lake, and West St. Paul were encouraged to submit comments or questions relating to CenturyLink’s franchise application via telephone or in person during the public hearing that was held June 3, 2015, as well as via e-mail and U.S. Mail.

NDC4 published a “Notice of Intent to Consider Application(s) for Franchise(s)” on March 8 and March 15, 2015, with the application deadline of March 31, 2015. One application was received from CenturyLink. NDC4 published a Notice of Public Hearing on April 5, 2015, announcing the opening of the public hearing to occur during the full Commission Meeting on April 15, 2015. During that meeting the Commission voted to continue the Public Hearing through the next full Commission meeting on June 3, 2015 at 7 p.m.

After the public hearing and several consulting reports on the company, NDC4 Commission found the applicant to be legally, technically, and financially qualified to operate a cable system in the seven-city area. The staff and legal counsel and negotiating committee were authorized to negotiate with CenturyLink to agree upon a recommended, or “model,” cable television franchise ordinance to be considered by each of the seven Member Cities. The recommended NDC4 franchise ordinance was approved at the February 23, 2016, Cable Commission meeting, and now may be considered individually by each of the Member Cities following their normal Ordinance adoption procedures, which in some cases include public hearings.

### Documents and Video

The following documents are available by clicking on the [Cable Customers tab](#) at [www.townsquare.tv](http://www.townsquare.tv):

- PowerPoint presentation by NDC4 Legal Counsel at February 23, 2016, NDC4 meeting
- Recommended Cable Television Ordinance approved at Feb. 23, 2016, NDC4 meeting
- NDC4 Resolution and Findings of Fact relating to CenturyLink franchise approved February 23, 2016
- Notice of Intent to Consider an Application for a Franchise
- Notice of Public Hearing
- PowerPoint presentation by NDC4 Legal Counsel at April 15, 2015, NDC4 meeting
- CenturyLink Application for Competitive Cable Franchise
- Comcast Letter to NDC4 re: CenturyLink Video Franchise Application

Recent discussions of the CenturyLink Franchise are available by clicking on the following web streamed meeting videos:

- [February 23, 2016, NDC4 Commission Meeting](#)
- [March 3, 2016, Mendota Heights City Council Meeting](#) (overview presentation)
- [March 7, 2016, South St. Paul City Council Meeting](#) (overview presentation)
- [March 15, 2016, Mendota Heights City Council Meeting](#) (includes public hearing and links to Mendota Heights ordinance and resolution with findings of fact)

#### Other Information

CenturyLink has applied for franchises in several Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area communities. CenturyLink has received franchises in approximately 30 Twin Cities communities, including Minneapolis, St. Paul, Bloomington, and members of the North Suburban Communications Commission (“NSCC”) headquartered in Roseville.

NDC4 is a joint powers cooperative formed by its seven member cities to administer and enforce the cable television franchise ordinance for each of the seven cities. NDC4 is the local franchise authority representing cable subscribers’ consumer interests, and also overseeing seven local community access channels on the cable system. For more information, call 651-450-9891, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or visit [www.townsquare.tv](http://www.townsquare.tv).