

**ORDINANCE No. 2023-91**

**AN ORDINANCE GRANTING CERTAIN RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES TO  
COMCAST OF NEW MEXICO, LLC, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS**

**BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Body of the City of Rio Communities, State of  
New Mexico**

The City of Rio Communities, having determined that the financial, legal, and technical ability of the Grantee is reasonably sufficient to provide the services, facilities, and equipment necessary to meet the future cable-related needs of the community, desires to enter into this non-exclusive Franchise Agreement with the Grantee for the construction, operation and maintenance of a Cable System on the terms and conditions set forth herein.

**SECTION 1 - Definition of Terms**

For the purpose of this Franchise Agreement, capitalized terms, phrases, words, and abbreviations shall have the meanings given herein. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words in the plural include the singular, and words in the singular include the plural. Words not defined shall be given their common and ordinary meaning. The word "shall" is always mandatory and not merely directory.

1.1.1 "Affiliate" when used in connection with Grantee, means any Person who owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, Grantee.

1.1. "Cable Service" shall mean (A) the one-way transmission to subscribers of (i) video programming, or (ii) other programming service, and (B) subscriber interaction, if any, which is required for the selection or use of such video programming or other programming service.

1.2. "Cable System" shall mean a facility, consisting of a set of closed transmission paths and associated signal generation, reception, and control equipment that is designed to provide cable service which includes video programming and which is provided to multiple subscribers within a community, but such term does not include (A) a facility that serves only to retransmit the televisions signals of one or more television broadcast stations, (B) a facility that serves subscribers without using any public right of way; (C) a facility of a common carrier which is subject, in whole or in part, to the provisions of Title II of the federal Communications Act (47 U.S.C. § 201 et seq.), except that such facility shall be considered a Cable System (other than for purposes of Section 621(c) (47 U.S.C. 541(c)) to the extent such facility is used in the transmission of video programming directly to Subscribers, unless the extent of such use is solely to provide interactive on-demand services; (D) an open video system that complies with federal

4. revenues from converter rentals or sales.
5. advertising revenues which shall include revenues derived from sales of advertising that are made available to Grantee's Cable System subscribers within the City of Rio Communities and shall be allocated on a pro rata basis using total Cable Service subscribers reached by the advertising. Additionally, Grantee agrees that Gross Revenues subject to franchise fees shall include all commissions, rep fees, Affiliated Entity fees, or rebates paid to National Cable Communications ("NCC") and Comcast effecty or their successors associated with sales of advertising on the Cable System within the City of Rio Communities allocated according to this paragraph using total Cable Service subscribers reached by the advertising;
6. barter.
7. revenues from program guides; and revenues from home shopping services.
8. Franchise Fees.
9. FCC Regulatory Fees.

Gross Revenues shall be the basis for computing the Grantee's Franchise Fee under this Agreement.

B. Gross Revenues shall not include

1. actual bad debt write-offs, except any portion which is subsequently collected which shall be allocated on a pro rata basis using Cable Services revenue as a percentage of total subscriber revenues within the City.
2. any taxes and/or fees on services furnished by Grantee imposed by any municipality, state, or other governmental unit, provided that Franchise Fees and the FCC regulatory fee shall not be regarded as such a tax or fee.
3. fees imposed by any municipality, state, or other governmental unit on Grantee including but not limited to Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) Fees.
4. launch fees and marketing co-op fees; and,
5. unaffiliated, third-party, advertising sales agency fees that are reflected as a deduction from revenues.

1.12. "Person" means any natural person or any association, firm, partnership, joint venture, corporation, or other legally recognized entity, whether for-profit or not-for profit, but shall not mean the Franchising Authority.

1.13. "Public Way" shall mean the surface of, and the space above and below, any public street, highway, freeway, bridge, land path, alley, court, boulevard, sidewalk, way, lane, public way, drive, circle or other public right-of-way, including, but not limited to, public utility easements, dedicated utility strips, or easements dedicated for compatible uses and any temporary or permanent fixtures or improvements located thereon now or hereafter held by the Franchising Authority in the Franchise Area, which shall entitle the Franchising Authority and the Grantee to the use thereof for the purpose of installing, operating, repairing, and maintaining the Cable System. Public Way shall also mean any easement now or hereafter held by the Franchising Authority within the Franchise Area for

Cable System, or any part thereof, prior to the commencement of any such activity. Construction, installation, and maintenance of the Cable System shall be performed in a safe, thorough and reliable manner using materials of good and durable quality. All transmission and distribution structures, poles, other lines, and equipment installed by the Grantee for use in the Cable System in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Franchise Agreement shall be located so as to minimize the interference with the proper use of the Public Ways and the rights and reasonable convenience of property owners who own property that adjoins any such Public Way.

### 3.2. Conditions of Street Occupancy.

3.2.1. New Grades or Lines. If the grades or lines of any Public Way within the Franchise Area are lawfully changed at any time during the term of this Franchise Agreement, then the Grantee shall, upon reasonable advance written notice from the Franchising Authority (which shall not be less than ten (10) business days) and at its own cost and expense, protect or promptly alter or relocate the Cable System, or any part thereof, so as to conform with any such new grades or lines. If public funds are available to any other user of the Public Way for the purpose of defraying the cost of any of the foregoing, the Franchising Authority shall notify Grantee of such funding and make available such funds to the Grantee.

3.2.2. Relocation at request of Third Party. The Grantee shall, upon reasonable prior written request of any Person holding a permit issued by the Franchising Authority to move any structure, temporarily move its wires to permit the moving of such structure; provided (i) the Grantee may impose a reasonable charge on any Person for the movement of its wires, and such charge may be required to be paid in advance of the movement of its wires; and (ii) the Grantee is given not less than ten (10) business days advance written notice to arrange for such temporary relocation.

3.2.3. Restoration of Public Ways. If in connection with the construction, operation, maintenance, or repair of the Cable System, the Grantee disturbs, alters, or damages any Public Way, the Grantee agrees that it shall at its own cost and expense replace and restore any such Public Way to a condition reasonably comparable to the condition of the Public Way existing immediately prior to the disturbance.

3.2.4. Safety Requirements. The Grantee shall, at its own cost and expense, undertake all necessary and appropriate efforts to maintain its work sites in a safe manner in order to prevent failures and accidents that may cause damage, injuries or nuisances. All work undertaken on the Cable System shall be performed in substantial accordance with applicable FCC or other federal and state regulations. The Cable System shall not unreasonably endanger or interfere with the safety of Persons or property in the Franchise Area.

3.2.5. Trimming of Trees and Shrubbery. The Grantee shall have the authority to trim trees or other natural growth overhanging any of its Cable System in the Franchise Area so as to prevent contact with the Grantee's wires, cables, or other

equipment. All such trimming shall be done at the Grantee's sole cost and expense. The Grantee shall be responsible for any damage caused by such trimming.

3.2.6. Aerial and Underground Construction. At the time of Cable System construction, if all of the transmission and distribution facilities of all of the respective public or municipal utilities in any area of the Franchise Area are underground, the Grantee shall place its Cable Systems' transmission and distribution facilities underground, provided that such underground locations are actually capable of accommodating the Grantee's cable and other equipment without technical degradation of the Cable System's signal quality. In any region(s) of the Franchise Area where the transmission or distribution facilities of the respective public or municipal utilities are both aerial and underground, the Grantee shall have the discretion to construct, operate, and maintain all of its transmission and distribution facilities, or any part thereof, aerially or underground. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to require the Grantee to construct, operate, or maintain underground any ground-mounted appurtenances such as customer taps, line extenders, system passive devices, amplifiers, power supplies, pedestals, or other related equipment.

3.2.7. Undergrounding and Beautification Projects. In the event all users of the Public Way relocate aerial facilities underground as part of an undergrounding or neighborhood beautification project, Grantee shall participate in the planning for relocation of its aerial facilities contemporaneously with other utilities. Grantee's relocation costs shall be included in any computation of necessary project funding by the municipality or private parties. Grantee shall be entitled to reimbursement of its relocation costs from public or private funds raised for the project and made available to other users of the Public Way.

3.2.8 The Grantee in the construction and operation of the system shall perform its work in such manner as to create the least inconvenience to the inhabitants of the City and the public generally, and shall repair, at Grantee's expense, all damage to public or private property resulting from its use.

### 3.3 Use of Rights-of-Way.

(A) Subject to the City's supervision and control, Grantee may erect, install, construct, repair, replace, reconstruct, and retain in, on, over, under, upon, across, and along the Rights-of-Way within the City such wires, cables, conductors, ducts, conduits, vaults, manholes, amplifiers, pedestals, attachments, and other property and equipment as are necessary and appurtenant to the operation of a Cable System within the City. Grantee, through this Franchise, is granted extensive and valuable rights to operate its Cable System for profit using the City's Rights-of-Way in compliance with all applicable City construction codes and procedures. As trustee for the public, the City is entitled to fair compensation as provided for in Section 7 of this Franchise to be paid for these valuable rights throughout the term of the Franchise.

4.4. New Developments. The Franchising Authority shall provide the Grantee with written notice of the issuance of building or development permits for planned developments within the Franchise Area requiring undergrounding of cable facilities. The Franchising Authority agrees to require the developer, as a condition of issuing the permit, to give the Grantee access to open trenches for deployment of cable facilities and at least ten (10) business days written notice of the date of availability of open trenches. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Grantee shall not be required to utilize any open trench.

#### **SECTION 5 - Fees and Charges to Customers**

5.1. All rates, fees, charges, deposits and associated terms and conditions to be imposed by the Grantee or any affiliated Person for any Cable Service as of the Effective Date shall be in accordance with applicable FCC's rate regulations. Before any new or modified rate, fee, or charge is imposed, the Grantee shall follow the applicable FCC notice requirements and rules and notify affected Customers, which notice may be by any means permitted under applicable law.

#### **SECTION 6 - Customer Service Standards; Customer Bills; and Privacy Protection**

6.1. Customer Service Standards. The Franchising Authority hereby adopts the customer service standards set forth in Part 76, §76.309 of the FCC's rules and regulations, as amended. The Grantee shall comply in all respects with the customer service requirements established by the FCC.

6.2. Customer Bills. Customer bills shall be designed in such a way as to present the information contained therein clearly and comprehensibly to Customers, and in a way that (A) is not misleading and (B) does not omit material information. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Section 6.1, above, the Grantee may, in its sole discretion, consolidate costs on Customer bills as may otherwise be permitted by Section 622(c) of the Cable Act (47 U.S.C. §542(c)).

6.3. Privacy Protection. The Grantee shall comply with all applicable federal and state privacy laws, including Section 631 of the Cable Act and regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

#### **SECTION 7 - Oversight and Regulation by Franchising Authority**

7.1. Franchise Fees. The Grantee shall pay to the Franchising Authority a franchise fee in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of annual Gross Revenues received from the operation of the Cable System to provide Cable Service in the Franchise Area; provided, however, that Grantee shall not be compelled to pay any higher percentage of franchise fees than any other video service provider providing service in the Franchise Area. The payment of franchise fees shall be made on a quarterly basis and shall be due thirty (30) days after the close of each calendar quarter. A report prepared by a

period after such standards become effective. The Franchising Authority shall have, upon written request, the right to obtain a copy of tests and records required to be performed pursuant to the FCC's rules.

7.5. Maintenance of Books, Records, and Files.

7.5.1. Books and Records. Throughout the term of this Franchise Agreement, the Grantee agrees that the Franchising Authority may review the Grantee's books and records regarding customer service performance levels in the Franchise Area to monitor Grantee's compliance with the provisions of this Franchise Agreement, upon reasonable prior written notice to the Grantee, at the Grantee's business office, during normal business hours, and without unreasonably interfering with Grantee's business operations. All such documents that may be the subject of an inspection by the Franchising Authority shall be retained by the Grantee for a minimum period of three (3) years.

7.5.2. Proprietary Information. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth in this Section, the Grantee shall not be required to disclose information which it reasonably deems to be proprietary or confidential in nature. The Franchising Authority agrees to treat any proprietary information disclosed by the Grantee as confidential and only to disclose it to those employees, representatives, and agents of the Franchising Authority that have a need to know in order to enforce this Franchise Agreement and who agree to maintain the confidentiality of all such information. The Grantee shall not be required to provide Customer information in violation of Section 631 of the Cable Act or any other applicable federal or state privacy law. For purposes of this Section, the terms "proprietary or confidential" include, but are not limited to, information relating to the Cable System design, customer lists, marketing plans, financial information unrelated to the calculation of franchise fees or rates pursuant to FCC rules, or other information that is reasonably determined by the Grantee to be competitively sensitive. Grantee may make proprietary or confidential information available for inspection but not copying or removal by the Franchising Authority's representative. The State of New Mexico has adopted a Public Records Act which applies to all municipalities, including the City of Rio Communities. Pursuant to the New Mexico Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA), upon receipt of request for information and documentation, the City of Rio Communities will be required to disclose such documents as may be required under the legislation and/or Court Orders within 15 days after Franchise Authority receives the initial IPRA request. Grantee agrees to work with Franchise Authority in order to comply with the statutory time limits.

**SECTION 8 – Transfer of Cable System or Franchise or Control of Grantee**

8.1. Neither the Grantee nor any other Person may transfer the Cable System or the Franchise without the prior written consent of the Franchising Authority, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. No transfer of control of the Grantee, defined as an acquisition of 51% or greater ownership interest in Grantee, shall take place without the prior written consent of the Franchising Authority, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. No consent shall be required, however, for (i) a transfer in trust, by mortgage, hypothecation, or by assignment of any rights, title, or interest of the

## **SECTION 11 - Enforcement and Termination of Franchise**

11.1. Notice of Violation or Default. In the event the Franchising Authority believes that the Grantee has not complied with the material terms of the Franchise, it shall notify the Grantee in writing with specific details regarding the exact nature of the alleged noncompliance or default.

11.2. Grantee's Right to Cure or Respond. The Grantee shall have forty-five (45) days from the receipt of the Franchising Authority's written notice: (A) to respond to the Franchising Authority, contesting the assertion of noncompliance or default; or (B) to cure such default; or (C) in the event that, by nature of the default, such default cannot be cured within the forty-five (45) day period, initiate reasonable steps to remedy such default and notify the Franchising Authority of the steps being taken and the projected date that the cure will be completed.

11.3. Enforcement. Subject to applicable federal and state law, in the event the Franchising Authority, after such public hearing, determines that the Grantee is in default of any material provision of the Franchise, the Franchising Authority may:

11.3.1. seek specific performance of any provision that reasonably lends itself to such remedy as an alternative to damages, or seek other equitable relief; or

11.3.2. in the case of a substantial default of a material provision of the Franchise, declare the Franchise Agreement to be revoked in accordance with the following:

(i) The Franchising Authority 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 two or more instances of substantial noncompliance with a material provision of the Franchise. The notice shall set forth with specificity the exact nature of the noncompliance. The Grantee shall have ninety (90) days from the receipt of such notice to object in writing and to state its reasons for such objection. In the event the Franchising Authority has not received a response from the Grantee or upon receipt of the response does not agree with the Grantee's proposed remedy, it may then seek termination of the Franchise at a public hearing. The Franchising Authority shall cause to be served upon the Grantee, at least ten (10) days prior to such public hearing, a written notice specifying the time and place of such hearing and stating its intent to request termination of the Franchise.

(ii) At the designated hearing, the Franchising Authority 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 terminated. The decision of the Franchising Authority shall be in writing and shall be delivered to the Grantee by certified mail.

11.5. Technical Violation. The Franchising Authority agrees that it is not its intention to subject the Grantee to penalties, fines, forfeitures or revocation of the Franchise



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Franchise Agreement has been executed by the duly authorized representatives of the parties as set forth below, as of the date set forth below:

**For the City of Rio Communities, New Mexico:**

By: 

Name: Martin Moore

Title: City Manager

Date: 9/25/2023

**For Comcast of New Mexico, LLC.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

statutes; or (E) any facilities of any electric utility used solely for operating its electric utility systems.

1.3. "Customer" means a Person or user of the Cable System who lawfully receives Cable Service therefrom with the Grantee's express permission.

1.4. "Effective Date" means the date on which all persons necessary to sign this Agreement in order for it to be binding on both parties have executed this Agreement as indicated on the signature page(s), unless a specific date is otherwise provided in the "Term" section herein.

1.5. "FCC" means the Federal Communications Commission, or successor governmental entity thereto.

1.6. "Franchise" means the initial authorization, or renewal thereof, issued by the Franchising Authority, whether such authorization is designated as a franchise, agreement, permit, license, resolution, contract, certificate, ordinance or otherwise, which authorizes the construction and operation of the Cable System.

1.7. "Franchise Agreement" or "Agreement" shall mean this Agreement and any amendments or modifications hereto.

1.8. "Franchise Area" means the present legal boundaries of the City of Rio Communities as of the Effective Date, and shall also include any additions thereto, by annexation or other legal means.

1.9. "Franchising Authority" means the City of Rio Communities, New Mexico or the lawful successor, transferee, designee, or assignee thereof.

1.10. "Grantee" shall mean Comcast of New Mexico, LLC.

1.11. "Gross Revenue" means and shall be construed broadly to include any and all cash, credits or other consideration of any kind or nature in any way derived from the operation of the Grantee's Cable System to provide Cable Services in the Franchising Authority, received directly or indirectly by a Grantee, calculated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

A. Gross Revenues shall include, but is not limited to:

1. monthly fees charged subscribers, regardless of whether such Cable Services are provided to residential or commercial customers, for any basic, optional, premium or pay-per-view service.

2. installation, disconnection, reconnection, and change-in-service fees associated with changes in subscriber Cable Service levels.

3. fees paid to Grantee for channels designated for commercial/leased access use and shall be allocated on a pro rata basis using total Cable Service subscribers within the City.

the purpose of public travel, or for utility or public service use dedicated for compatible uses, and shall include other easements or rights-of-way as shall within their proper use and meaning entitle the Franchising Authority and the Grantee to the use thereof for the purposes of installing, operating, and maintaining the Grantee's Cable System over poles, wires, cables, conductors, ducts, conduits, vaults, manholes, amplifiers, appliances, attachments, and other property as may be ordinarily necessary and pertinent to the Cable System.

## **SECTION 2 - Grant of Authority**

2.1. The Franchising Authority hereby grants to the Grantee a nonexclusive Franchise authorizing the Grantee to construct and operate a Cable System in the Public Ways within the Franchise Area, and for that purpose to erect, install, construct, repair, replace, reconstruct, maintain, or retain in any Public Way such poles, wires, cables, conductors, ducts, conduits, vaults, manholes, pedestals, amplifiers, appliances, attachments, and other related property or equipment as may be necessary or appurtenant to the Cable System, and to provide such services over the Cable System as may be lawfully allowed.

2.1.1 Subject to federal and state preemption, the provisions of this Franchise constitute a valid and enforceable contract between the parties. The material terms and conditions contained in this Franchise may not be unilaterally altered by the Franchising Authority through subsequent amendment to any ordinance, rule, regulation, or other enactment of the Franchising Authority, except in the lawful exercise of the Franchising Authority's police power.

2.1.2 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Franchise, Grantee reserves the right to challenge provisions of any ordinance, rule, regulation, or other enactment of the Franchising Authority that conflicts with its contractual rights under this Franchise, either now or in the future.

2.1.3 This Franchise shall not be interpreted to prevent the City from imposing additional lawful conditions, including additional compensation conditions for use of the Rights-of-Way only as permitted by Applicable Law should Grantee provide service other than Cable Service.

2.1.4 Grantee promises and guarantees, as a condition of exercising the privileges granted by this Franchise, that any Affiliate of the Grantee directly involved in the offering of Cable Service in the Franchise Area, or directly involved in the management or operation of the Cable System in the Franchise Area, will also comply with the obligations of this Franchise.

2.1.5 No rights shall pass to Grantee by implication. Without limiting the foregoing, by way of example and not limitation, this Franchise shall not include or be a substitute for:

(1) Any other permit or authorization required for the privilege of transacting and carrying on a business within the City that may be required by the ordinances and laws of the City;

(2) Any permit, agreement, or authorization required by the City for Right-of-Way users in connection with operations on or in Rights-of-Way or public property including, by way of example and not limitation, street cut permits; or

(3) Any permits or agreements for occupying any other property of the City or private entities to which access is not specifically granted by this Franchise including, without limitation, permits and agreements for placing devices on poles, in conduits or in or on other structures.

2.16 This Franchise is intended to convey limited rights and interests only as to those Rights-of-Way in which the City has an actual interest. It is not a warranty of title or interest in any Right-of-Way; it does not provide the Grantee with any interest in any particular location within the Right-of-Way; and it does not confer rights other than as expressly provided in the grant hereof.

2.2. Term of Franchise. The term of the Franchise granted hereunder shall be ten (10) years, commencing upon the Effective Date of the Franchise, unless the Franchise is renewed or is lawfully terminated in accordance with the terms of this Franchise Agreement and the Cable Act, or is extended by mutual agreement of the Franchising Authority and Grantee.

2.3. Renewal. Any renewal of this Franchise shall be governed by and comply with the provisions of Section 626 of the Cable Act, as amended.

Should the Franchise expire without a mutually agreed upon renewed Franchise Agreement and Grantee and Franchising Authority are engaged in an informal or formal renewal process, the Franchise shall continue on a month-to-month basis, with the same terms and conditions as provided in the Franchise, and the Grantee and Franchising Authority shall continue to comply with all obligations and duties under the Franchise.

2.4. Reservation of Authority. Nothing in this Franchise Agreement shall (A) abrogate the right of the Franchising Authority to perform any public works or public improvements of any description, (B) be construed as a waiver of any codes or ordinances of general applicability promulgated by the Franchising Authority, or (C) be construed as a waiver or release of the rights of the Franchising Authority in and to the Public Ways.

### **SECTION 3 – Construction and Maintenance of the Cable System**

3.1. Permits and General Obligations. The Grantee shall be responsible for obtaining, at its own cost and expense, all generally applicable permits, licenses, or other forms of approval or authorization necessary to construct, operate, maintain or repair the

- (B) Grantee must follow City established nondiscriminatory requirements for placement of Cable System facilities in Rights-of-Way, including the specific location of facilities in the Rights-of-Way, and must in any event install Cable System facilities in a manner that minimizes interference with the use of the Rights-of-Way by others, including others that may be installing communications facilities. Within limits reasonably related to the City's role in protecting public health, safety, and welfare, the City may require that Cable System facilities be installed at a particular time, at a specific place, or in a particular manner as a condition of access to a particular Right-of-Way; may deny access if Grantee is not willing to comply with City's requirements; and may remove, or require removal of, any facility that is not installed by Grantee in compliance with the requirements established by the City, or which is installed without prior City approval of the time, place, or manner of installation, and charge Grantee for all the costs associated with removal; and may require Grantee to cooperate with others to minimize adverse impacts on the Rights-of-Way through joint trenching and other arrangements.

#### **SECTION 4 - Service Obligations**

4.1. General Service Obligation. The Grantee shall make Cable Service available to every residential dwelling unit within the Franchise Area where the minimum density is at least thirty (30) dwelling units per mile and is within one (1) mile of the existing Cable System. Subject to the density requirement, Grantee shall offer Cable Service to all new homes or previously unserved homes located within 125 feet of the Grantee's distribution cable.

The Grantee may elect to provide Cable Service to areas not meeting the above density and distance standards. The Grantee may impose an additional charge in excess of its regular installation charge for any service installation requiring a drop in or line extension in excess of the above standards. Any such additional charge shall be computed on a time plus materials basis to be calculated on that portion of the installation that exceeds the standards set forth above.

4.2. Programming. The Grantee shall offer to all Customers a diversity of video programming services.

4.3. No Discrimination. The Grantee shall not discriminate or permit discrimination between or among any Persons in the availability of Cable Services or other services provided in connection with the Cable System in the Franchise Area. It shall be the right of all Persons to receive all available services provided on the Cable System so long as such Person's financial or other obligations to the Grantee are satisfied. Nothing contained herein shall prohibit the Grantee from offering bulk discounts, promotional discounts, package discounts, or other such pricing strategies as part of its business practice.

representative of the Grantee showing the basis for the computation of the Franchise Fees paid during that period shall either accompany the franchise fee payment or be provided under separate cover.

7.2. Franchise Fees Subject to Audit.

7.2.1. Upon reasonable prior written notice and no more than once annually, during normal business hours at Grantee's principal business office, the Franchising Authority shall have the right to inspect the Grantee's financial records used to calculate the Franchising Authority's franchise fees; provided, however, that any such inspection shall take place within three (3) years from the date the Franchising Authority receives such payment, after which period any such payment shall be considered final.

7.2.2. Upon the completion of any such audit by the Franchising Authority, the Franchising Authority shall provide to the Grantee a final report setting forth the Franchising Authority's findings in detail, including any and all substantiating documentation. In the event of an alleged underpayment, the Grantee shall have thirty (30) days from the receipt of the report to provide the Franchising Authority with a written response agreeing to or refuting the results of the audit, including any substantiating documentation. Based on these reports and responses, the parties shall agree upon a "Finally Settled Amount." For purposes of this Section, the term "Finally Settled Amount(s)" shall mean the agreed upon underpayment, if any, to the Franchising Authority by the Grantee as a result of any such audit. If the parties cannot agree on a "Final Settlement Amount," the parties shall submit the dispute to a mutually agreed upon mediator within sixty (60) days of reaching an impasse. In the event an agreement is not reached at mediation, either party may bring an action to have the disputed amount determined by a court of law.

7.2.3. Any "Finally Settled Amount(s)" due to the Franchising Authority as a result of such audit shall be paid to the Franchising Authority by the Grantee within thirty (30) days from the date the parties agree upon the "Finally Settled Amount." Once the parties agree upon a Finally Settled Amount and such amount is paid by the Grantee, the Franchising Authority shall have no further rights to audit or challenge the payment for that period. The Franchising Authority shall bear the expense of its audit of the Grantee's books and records.

7.3. Oversight of Franchise. In accordance with applicable law, the Franchising Authority shall have the right to, on reasonable prior written notice and in the presence of Grantee's employee, periodically inspect the construction and maintenance of the Cable System in the Franchise Area as necessary to monitor Grantee's compliance with the provisions of this Franchise Agreement.

7.4. Technical Standards. The Grantee shall comply with all applicable technical standards of the FCC as published in subpart K of 47 C.F.R. § 76. To the extent those standards are altered, modified, or amended during the term of this Franchise, the Grantee shall comply with such altered, modified or amended standards within a reasonable

Grantee in the Franchise or in the Cable System in order to secure indebtedness, or (ii) a transfer to an entity directly or indirectly owned or controlled by Comcast Corporation. Within thirty (30) days of receiving a request for consent, the Franchising Authority shall, in accordance with FCC rules and regulations, notify the Grantee in writing of the additional information, if any, it requires to determine the legal, financial and technical qualifications of the transferee or new controlling party. If the Franchising Authority has not taken final action on the Grantee's request for consent within one hundred twenty (120) days after receiving such request, consent shall be deemed granted.

## **SECTION 9 - Insurance and Indemnity**

9.1. Insurance. Throughout the term of this Franchise Agreement, the Grantee shall, at its own cost and expense, maintain Comprehensive General Liability Insurance and provide the Franchising Authority certificates of insurance designating the Franchising Authority and its officers, boards, commissions, councils, elected officials, agents and employees as additional insureds and demonstrating that the Grantee has obtained the insurance required in this Section. Such policy or policies shall be in the minimum amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for bodily injury or death to any one person, and One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for bodily injury or death of any two or more persons resulting from one occurrence, and One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for property damage resulting from any one accident. Such policy or policies shall be non-cancelable except upon thirty (30) days prior written notice to the Franchising Authority. The Grantee shall provide workers' compensation coverage in accordance with applicable law. The Grantee shall indemnify and hold harmless the Franchising Authority from any workers compensation claims to which the Grantee may become subject during the term of this Franchise Agreement

9.2. Indemnification. The Grantee shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Franchising Authority, its officers, employees, and agents from and against any liability or claims resulting from property damage or bodily injury (including accidental death) that arise out of the Grantee's construction, operation, maintenance or removal of the Cable System, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, provided that the Franchising Authority shall give the Grantee written notice of its obligation to indemnify and defend the Franchising Authority within twenty-five (25) business days of receipt of a claim or action pursuant to this Section. If the Franchising Authority determines that it is necessary for it to employ separate counsel, the costs for such separate counsel shall be the responsibility of the Franchising Authority.

## **SECTION 10 - System Description and Service**

10.1. System Capacity. During the term of this Agreement the Grantee's Cable System shall be capable of providing a minimum of 85 channels of video programming with satisfactory reception available to its customers in the Franchise Area.

for so-called "technical" breach(es) or violation(s) of the Franchise, which shall include, but not be limited, to the following:

11.5.1. in instances or for matters where a violation or a breach of the Franchise by the Grantee was good faith error that resulted in no or minimal negative impact on the Customers within the Franchise Area; or

11.5.2. where there existed circumstances reasonably beyond the control of the Grantee and which precipitated a violation by the Grantee of the Franchise, or which were deemed to have prevented the Grantee from complying with a term or condition of the Franchise.

## **SECTION 12 – Competitive Equity**

(A) The Grantee acknowledges and agrees that the Franchising Authority reserves the right to grant one (1) or more additional franchises or other similar lawful authorization to provide Cable Services within the Franchising Authority; provided, the Franchising Authority agrees that, within ninety (90) days of the Grantee's request, it shall amend this Franchise to include any material terms or conditions that it makes available to the new entrant, or provide relief from existing material terms or conditions, so as to insure that the regulatory and financial burdens on each entity are materially equivalent. "Material terms and conditions" include but are not limited to franchise fees; insurance; System build-out requirements; security instruments; Public, Education and Government Access Channels and support; customer service standards; required reports and related record keeping; and notice and opportunity to cure breaches. The parties agree that this provision shall not require a word for word identical franchise or authorization for a competitive entity so long as the regulatory and financial burdens on each entity are materially equivalent. Video Programming services delivered over wireless broadband networks are specifically exempted from the requirements of this Section.

(B) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, at any time that a non-wireless facilities based entity, legally authorized by state or federal law, makes available for purchase by Subscribers or customers, Cable Services or multiple Channels of Video Programming within the Franchise Area without a franchise or other similar lawful authorization granted by the Franchising Authority, then Grantee may seek modification as per (A) above, or the term of Grantee's Franchise shall, upon ninety (90) days written notice from Grantee, be shortened so that the Franchise shall be deemed to expire on a date six (6) months from the first day of the month following the date of Grantee's notice.

(C) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, should any non-wireless facilities-based entity provide Cable Service within the Franchise Area during the term of this Franchise without a franchise granted by the Franchising Authority, then Grantee may assert, at Grantee's option, that this Franchise is rendered "commercially impracticable" and invoke the modification procedures set forth in Section 625 of the Cable Act.

13.4. Entire Agreement. This Franchise Agreement, including all Exhibits, embodies the entire understanding and agreement of the Franchising Authority and the Grantee with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior understandings, agreements and communications, whether written or oral. All ordinances or parts of ordinances that are in conflict with or otherwise impose obligations different from the provisions of this Franchise Agreement are superseded by this Franchise Agreement.

13.5. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or other portion of this Franchise Agreement is, for any reason, declared invalid, in whole or in part, by any court, agency, commission, legislative body, or other authority of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent portion. Such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof, which other portions shall continue in full force and effect.

13.6. Governing Law. This Franchise Agreement shall be deemed to be executed in the State of New Mexico, and shall be governed in all respects, including validity, interpretation and effect, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New Mexico, as applicable to contracts entered into and performed entirely within the State. Venue for all disputes and subsequent litigation among the parties shall be in the Thirteenth Judicial District Court, State of New Mexico.

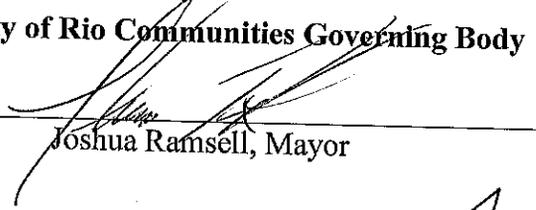
13.7. Modification. No provision of this Franchise Agreement shall be amended or otherwise modified, in whole or in part, except by an instrument, in writing, duly executed by the Franchising Authority and the Grantee, which amendment shall be authorized on behalf of the Franchising Authority through the adoption of an appropriate resolution or order by the Franchising Authority, as required by applicable law.

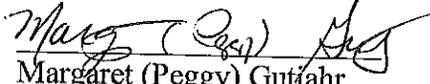
13.8. No Third-Party Beneficiaries. Nothing in this Franchise Agreement is intended to confer third-party beneficiary status on any member of the public to enforce the terms of this Franchise Agreement.

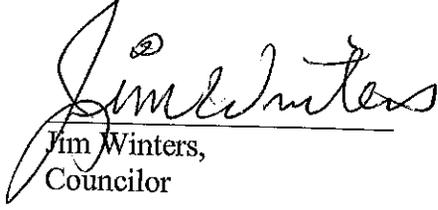
13.9. No Waiver of Rights. Nothing in this Franchise Agreement shall be construed as a waiver of any rights, substantive or procedural, Grantee may have under federal or state law unless such waiver is expressly stated herein.

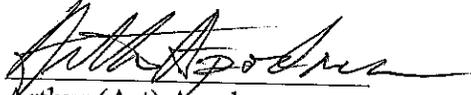
PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 25<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023  
BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF RIO COMMUNITIES, NEW  
MEXICO.

City of Rio Communities Governing Body

  
Joshua Ramsell, Mayor

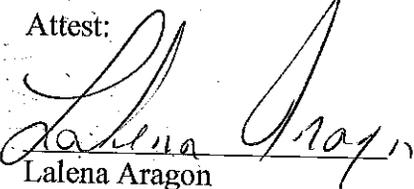
  
Margaret (Peggy) Gutfahr,  
Mayor Pro-tem

  
Jim Winters,  
Councilor

  
Arthur (Art) Apodaca  
Councilor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lawrence R. Gordon  
Councilor

Attest:

  
Lalena Aragon  
Deputy Clerk