

RESOLUTION NO. 2020

RELATIVE TO REQUESTING THE REASSIGNMENT OF PUBLIC GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION (“PEG TV”) CHANNEL DESIGNATION TO A MORE ACCESSABLE LOCATION ON SPECTRUM TV CHANNEL LINEUP

BY:

Council Chairman Christopher Voccio
Council Member William Kennedy II
Council Member John Spanbauer
Council Member Kenny Tompkins
Council Member Andrew Touma
Mayor Robert M. Restaino

WHEREAS, local Public Government and Educational Television (“PEG TV”) is an invaluable public service to our community, broadcasting local government meetings, school board meetings, coverage of important City/school-sponsored events as well as other programming of interest to the community; and

WHEREAS, for over 15 years, our PEG TV station, the Our Schools Channel (“OSC”), operated by the Niagara Falls City School District, has provided this valuable public service to our community; and

WHEREAS, since the early 1980s, PEG TV was easily accessible, first on Niagara Frontier Cable, Adelphia Communications and Time Warner (now Spectrum Communications), on channels assigned to lower numbered designations; and

WHEREAS, however, since 2018, Spectrum has moved our local community access programming to channel 1302 which has resulted in viewers having trouble finding this channel since it is not in proximity to other local programming; and

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WHEREAS, since this channel designation change, Spectrum has not used channels 13, 14, 17, 19 or 20 for any other programming; and

WHEREAS, during the current public health crisis, easing the flow of information between various levels of government and people has never been more critical as people are isolated at home and are relying on news outlets to receive information ranging from community closures to access to life saving healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has spread further due to misinformation or lack of information and now is not the time to restrict local access channels; instead, it is time we enhance and amplify them; and

WHEREAS, with this in mind, the City Council is asking that the Public Service Commission, whose responsibility is to monitor and govern public services, to make our public access programming more accessible by moving our local PEG TV programming back to one of the unused lower tier channels.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that both the City Council and Mayor Robert M. Restaino of the City of Niagara Falls request that the Public Service Commission order Spectrum Communications to move the Our Schools Channel, our local PEG TV channel, to a more accessible channel designation; and it is further

RESOLVED, that it is recommended that Spectrum Communications relocate OSC to one of the unused lower-tier channels, specifically either channels 13, 14, 17, 19 or 20.