

Long Beach City Council Members and Mayor Foster.

Open letter to the City Council on 5/3/11:

I ask your help in addressing the issue of denial of access to PEG funding for the Public Access distribution of PEG funds. Agenda Item 24 deceptively disguises, as a process for formal inclusion of the Long Beach Foundation in the grant procurement process, a proposal for the extension of the division of funding from PEG funds, as it now stands, for two more years. The current funding pattern distributes funds equally between Government, Educational and Public Access stations but NO Public Access funds have ever been released.

This agenda item calls for no discussion of how the previous disbursement of funding to Government and Educational channels has served the public good, provided employment or even served the community with relevant programming. It is still unclear why Long Beach State receives these funds, at all. There has been no report of the process of negotiations to begin broadcasts on a Public Access Channel after over three years of meetings. Results of these meetings have been kept secret, though members of the community who have taken part are here, tonight. I personally have been excluded from these meetings, so I cannot speak to their progress or process.

I ask that the City Council decline to pass this measure, hold hearings on the above mentioned issues and restore the funding pattern needed for a realistic start for the Public Access channel. DO NOT believe that the only way to start Public Access is through a grant from the Knight Foundation or ANY foundation. This will not secure any grant, is not a viable way to fund a media production company that needs a minimum of \$80,000.00 a month to operate fully. OTHER, viable options are available to do this, but discussion of such options, that will actually save our city money, provide employment and training opportunities for our youth and adults, support our community media messages, foster the production of valuable marketable media and allow for compliance with PEG funding guidelines, are available. Such a plan will be presented if a hearing on this issue is ever held.

No such hearing has ever been held. Not to do so is not in the best interest of this City or its citizens.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

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