

**Item 21- City Council Agenda for Meeting of 10/11/2011-
Karen Ashikeh LaMantia, 341 Bonito, Long Beach 90802**

City Council Members and Mayor Foster:

Please ask all those speaking to this issue to identify themselves to state any vested interest in how monies are spent or allocated in relation to their job, organizations or affiliations, before they proceed to comment on this issue.

BEFORE APPROVING Item 21- Please call for a public report and accounting of all PEG funds so far received and disbursed. This report should include accounting for use by Government and Educational allocations and amounts received and amounts actually used, jobs created from these funding sources, projects produced that meet the public needs and who (generally) was involved in these productions. This accounting presented by both Educational and Government, should be verified by an independent accountant and/or City auditor, to show that these reports are accurate and appropriate use of PEG funds.

BEFORE APPROVING Item 21- Please call for the public presentation from the Long Beach Community Partners Program to document what their plan is to use PEG funding to do the following -

- Their plans to assure they will fill the required air time of 8 hours per day to keep the broadcast station bandwidth- as required by law without use of repetitive, roll-in fillers, similar to the use of the Library Channel.
- What contracted assurances are there built into this contract to provide for the development if viable, well paying jobs for adults, how many jobs will they generate funding for? What guarantees are being asked of them to assure that funding for salaries will continue as a viable option, after the Knight Foundation grant is finished?
- Why are funds from PEG money being placed into the City General fund and what is the role of the City Communications office in dispersing these funds? Does the Community Partner's Foundation NOT want to be responsible for accounting for PEG funds? How will these funds be disbursed and USE accounted for, if they are in the General Fund for disbursement?
- What assurances does the contract with Long Beach Community Partners provide that programs produced with PEG funds will contribute to the citizens, businesses and organizations of Long Beach, with outreach to relevant groups with options for people of **ALL ages and economic levels** to reasonable access to studio time, equipment resources and professional staff

Please Turn Over

CONSIDER these alternatives

WAIT until the Long Beach Community Partner's program identifies - to the public- how it will serve the above community needs for all citizens, without charge (money) for use of public access funded resources or charge (money) for assistance with editing, training and professional staff time to produce quality programs.

Instead, have PEG funding held in Trust by an independent accounting/ legal or banking entity, to be release directly to those designated to use and administer PEG funding. Get PEG funding away from City responsibility, except for PEG government funds for Government programming. Let ALL recipients of funds be reviewed by the independent Trustee, with certified accounting for all funding each receives, as a responsibility of this Trusteeship. Report from the Trustee should be public and to City Council.

Why consider the above alternatives?

PEG funds are not City funds - they are monies held by the City to be released to those who will provide PEG programming. The City should not ever put these funds in the hands of a City department, unless they are the government portion of the PEG funds. To have Public Access PEG funds, virtually unaccounted for in the City General Fund, may be illegal, under terms of the PEG law, and certainly precludes accountability for their use for the purpose intended by PEG law and Public Access principles. **This essentially puts ALL PEG monies in the hands of a government entity. DO NOT PASS this resolution!**

Throughout the process of allocation of PEG funding, this process has been conducted by City Communications Department **without oversight by City Council and without option for information or review by the general public.** It is unknown what plan there is for appropriate and legal use of these funds for purposes which the law intends, **DO NOT PASS this resolution!**

To do so opens the City of Long Beach to investigation at both a state and federal level that may well reveal a process of collusion, fraudulent statements to this Council by the City Communications Department and the Members of the planning committee, in order to benefit the current recipients of the Knight Foundation grant and Long Beach Community Foundation.

Under the direction of City Communications Department, there has already been misuse of PEG funds, specifically in granting PEG monies to Long Beach State which has no official affiliation or accountability to the Citizens of Long Beach, the Long Beach Departments of Education or Long Beach Government. LBSC certainly has no accountability or access to these funds for Long Beach citizens, even if they go to this school! Long Beach State College is not a city government nor a city educational institution and should never have been given PEG funding. Until basic information can be accurately presented to the public and to this Council, in a public forum, **DO NOT PASS this resolution!**