

April 21, 2009
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Community Access Media
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RE: City Council item#27... Public Access TV... "PEG" funds

- I have had the honor of representing Long Beach Community Television as Supervisor for the past 7 years. I was employed by Charter Communications through the Franchise agreement with the City.
- I reported to the City at Quarterly CABLE COMMISSION MEETINGS hosted by the Video Communications Dept. officer, Dean Smits.
- I've been amazed at the citizen response to our public access. It has grown from 50 volunteer producers to over 100 and was continuing to grow at the rate of 5 new volunteer producers at each monthly training workshop. We have consistently produced 3 new programs each day and 90 per month. We did broadcast over 2000 hours of programming per year and our Community Calendar announced upcoming events and outreach programs with contact information from 9PM to 1:00PM each day.
- Our production crew members were creative & talented with excellent technical skills and dedicated to making the community better. Most all crew members were graduates from the Long Beach City College vocational TV Production/Broadcast program. They too, were paid through Charter Communications via the Franchise agreement with the City. After years of service and established relationships with the diverse producers, they are now unemployed and the talents and skills that they shared with this community are not being used.
- The Long Beach City Prosecutor, Tom Reeves has produced, "Letter of the Law" 2 times a month for the past 10 years.
- Vice Mayor Val Lerch has produced his "North Long Beach Report" monthly for the last several years.
- Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske has had her own program in previous years.
- Our volunteer producers have covered " Long Beach Reads One Book", "Tour Des Artists", "Smithsonian Week", " Children's Day", "Principal for a Day", candidates forums, school performances , community festivals and more ...
- We have hosted regular interviews with our school superintendent; University President, F King Alexander; numerous dignitaries including international "Sister City" officials; health, spiritual outreach and finance experts.
- We have programs produced by the handicapped for the handicapped.
- Traditional TV ACCESS is important to the handicapped community as well as to the SENIORS and those who do not have computer skills and/or access.
- "R U Talented" has been providing a venue for Long Beach's talented kids since long before the network's "American Idol" and "America's Got Talent".
- **Our representation of the diversity of our city is unmatched.**
- We have Cambodian, Spanish, Samoan language programs as well as LIVE NEWS programs from/for the gay and lesbian community as examples.
- Over 500 culturally diverse community members would sign in to our guest list each month.
- That means that over 500 community members had a chance to exchange their ideas and share their art & cultural traditions, outreach programs, forums, workshops, festivals and entertainment via cable television.
- 5 years ago on the occasion of our 20th Anniversary, then Mayor Beverly O'Neil gave us a Proclamation from the City attesting to our value, and then State Senator Betty Karnette awarded us a State Commendation.
- This year would be our 25th year.
- 25 Years ago the City of Long Beach made a decision to create Public Access Television..... with the

- Mission Statement....
- **EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY'S VOICE**
- **THROUGH ACCESS TO MEDIA**
- TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, WE WILL WORK TOWARD THE FOLLOWING GOALS:

- AVOCATE THE USE AND BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY ACCESS TELEVISION.
- ENCOURAGE THE PRODUCTION AND CABLECASTING ON NON-COMMERCIAL PROGRAMS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE COMMUNITY OF LONG BEACH AND SIGNAL HILL
- ENCOURAGE THE CREATION OF PROGRAMS AIMED AT PERSERVING, DEVELOPING AND ENHANCING THE DIVERSITY OF THOUGHT, CULTURE AND HERITAGE WITHIN THE LONG BEACH AND SIGNAL HILL COMMUNITIES.
- FACILITATE LIFELONG LEARNING AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.
- PROVIDE EQUIPMENT, FACILITIES, TRAINING AND OTHER SUPPORT RESOURCES TO TRY AND MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY USERS.
 - SERVE AS A LOCAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE.
- DEVELOP COOPERATIVE PATNERSHIPS WITH PUBLIC, EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS TO HELP FURTHER THE GOALS OF COMMUNITY ACCESS.
- MONITER AND INCORPORATE, TO THE EXTENT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE, THE USE OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES THAT WILL BENEFIT COMMUNITY ACCESS USERS.
- MAINTAIN THESE CABLE CHANNELS DEDICATED TO PUBLIC USE IN A MANNER THAT IS FREE OF CENSORSHIP AND CONTROL OF PROGRAM CONTENT, EXCEPT AS NECESSARY TO COMPLY WITH SATE OR FEDERAL LAW.
 - ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO COMMUNITY CHANNELS, FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT BY DEVELOPING AND UTILIZING RULES AND POLICIES.
- We are asking that you all support restoring this great asset of our city.

Why does Long Beach Public Access need PEG funds?

- Public access is the only entity which has been affected negatively by the new legislation (CA AB 2987). Studio and station channel were shut down Jan 2009.
- 25 year History, continuity of programming
- Legacy of Established Diverse Cultural Community Connections
- History of connections to neighborhood resources/organizations/events & festivals
- Public Access has provided an access to media where the politically and culturally diverse VOICES of the community can be heard.
- These connections to the community have strengthened the cultural fabric of Long Beach, which promotes more peaceful neighborhoods and encourages increased participation in the democratic process.

Without public access to media:

- The people's voice cannot be heard, necessary for a thriving Democracy
- Exchange of ideas does not happen,
- There is no forum for presentation
- There is no community of viewers having the common experience of learning about the people who make up the city of Long Beach.

Please use PEG FUNDS to reestablish Long Beach Community Television (Public Access).