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March 27, 2018

**Board Secretary** 

RECEIVED CASE MANAGEMENT

MAR 28 2018

MAR 28 2018 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

TRENTON, NJ

RECEIVED

Attn: Aida Camacho Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue 3rd Floor, Suite 314

Via FedEx Overnight Mail

Trenton, NJ 08625

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES TRENTON, NJ

CE18030347

In the Matter of the Petition of Comcast of Garden State L.P., for a Renewal Certificate Re: of Approval to Continue to Construct, Operate and Maintain a Cable Television System in and for the Township of Medford, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey Our File No. 41000.3000

Dear Ms. Camacho:

Enclosed herewith please find the original and eleven (11) copies of the Verified Petition and Verification filed on behalf of Comcast of Garden State L.P. ("Comcast"), along with three (3) copies of Comcast's public Application for Renewal of a Certificate of Approval ("Application"), with respect to the above-referenced matter. Said copies of the Application have been redacted so as to protect certain confidential information contained therein. Confidential copies of the Application are being submitted simultaneously under separate cover, along with Comcast's request for confidential treatment, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:1-12 et seq.

Kindly file the Petition and please return the extra copy of this letter and Petition stamped "RECEIVED" in the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided herein.

Thank you for your kind consideration. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,

Dennis Linken ldp Dennis C. Linken

For the Firm

DCL/dp

cc/w/enc. Lawanda R. Gilbert, Director (via FedEx Overnight Mail)

Maria T. Novas-Ruiz, Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel (via first class mail)

Katherine Burger, Township Clerk (via first class mail

Fred J. DeAndrea, Senior Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs (via first class mail)

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES OFFICE OF CABLE TELEVISION & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

SCARINCI & HOLLENBECK, LLC 1100 Valley Brook Avenue Lyndhurst, NJ 07071-0790 Phone: 201-896-4100 Attorneys for Petitioner Comcast of Garden State L.P. File No. 41000.3000



IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF
COMCAST OF GARDEN STATE L.P., FOR A
RENEWAL CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL
TO CONTINUE TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE
AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION
SYSTEM IN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF
MEDFORD, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON,
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

)

VERIFIED PETITION

Docket No.

Comcast of Garden State L.P. (hereinafter, "Comcast" or "Petitioner"), hereby petitions the Honorable Board of Public Utilities (the "Board"), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-15, 16 and 17, and N.J.A.C. 14:18-13.6, for renewal of a Certificate of Approval to continue to construct, operate and maintain a cable television system ("System") in the Township of Medford, Burlington County, New Jersey ("Township" or "Medford"). In support of its Petition, Petitioner states as follows:

### COUNT ONE

Comcast, a limited partnership duly organized under the laws of the State of
Delaware, is a cable television company subject to the jurisdiction of the Office of Cable
Television & Telecommunications ("OCTV&T") and the Board, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et
seq.

- Comcast maintains its principal offices at 1250 Audubon Park-Berlin Road,
   Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08034.
- 3. On or about January 9, 1980, in Docket No. 7910C-6554, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-17(a) and (b) and N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(c), the Board issued a Certificate of Approval to Audubon Electronics, Inc. ("Audubon") to provide cable television service in the Township. A copy of said Certificate is on file with the OCTV&T.
- 4. On or about November 6, 1980, in Docket No. 8010C-6721, the Board approved the transfer of the System, including the Certificate of Approval with respect to Medford, from Audubon to New York Times Cable Company of New Jersey ("NYT").
- 5. On or about July 26, 1989, in Docket No. CM89030342, the Board approved the transfer of the System, including the Certificate of Approval with respect to Medford, from NYT to Garden State Cablevision, L.P. ("Garden State").
- 6. On or about March 18, 1998, in Docket No. CE97020085, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-16 and 17, the Board issued a Renewal Certificate of Approval to Garden State for the continued construction, operation and maintenance of the System in and for the Township. A copy of said Certificate of Approval is on file at the OCTV&T.
- 7. On or about January 5, 2000, in Docket No. CM99110855, the Board authorized the merger Lenfest Communications, Inc., which owned a 50% interest in Garden State, with and into a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of Comcast Corporation, which owned the remaining 50% interest. As a result of said merger, Garden State, later renamed Comcast of Garden State L.P., Petitioner herein, became indirectly wholly-owned by Comcast Corporation.
- 8. On or about March 3, 2004, in Docket No. CE02050282, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-16 and 17, the Board issued a Renewal Certificate of Approval to Petitioner for the

continued construction, operation and maintenance of the System in and for the Township. A copy of said Certificate of Approval is on file at the OCTV&T.

- 9. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 14:18-13.3(a)3, on or about December 7, 2016, Petitioner submitted an Application for Renewal of Municipal Consent (hereinafter the "Municipal Application") to continue to construct, operate and maintain a cable television system in the Township.
- 10. On or about March 21, 2017, a public hearing was held by the Township with respect to Petitioner's Municipal Application, during which all interested persons desiring to be heard were so heard.
- 11. On or about November 21, 2017, the Township adopted Ordinance 2017-15 (the "Ordinance"), granting to Petitioner renewal of its Municipal Consent ("Renewal of Municipal Consent") to continue to construct, operate and maintain a cable television system in the Township. A copy of the Ordinance is annexed hereto as Exhibit A.
- 12. On or about February 14, 2018, Comcast filed its formal acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Renewal of Municipal Consent granted by the Township, pursuant to <a href="N.J.S.A.">N.J.S.A.</a> 48:5A-24. A copy of said letter of acceptance is annexed hereto as Exhibit B.
- 13. Information pertaining to Petitioner on file with the OCTV&T, together with the information contained in the Municipal Application and Petitioner's Application for Renewal of a Certificate of Approval ("COA Application"), simultaneously filed herewith, all of which is adopted by reference thereto, establishes the requisite criteria for the continued construction, operation and management of a cable television system in Medford by Comcast.
- 14. Comcast possesses the requisite character and suitability for the continued operation of the system. Further, as indicated in the material filed with the Township and on file

with the OCTV&T, and set forth in the Municipal Application and the COA Application,

Comcast possesses the necessary financial integrity and the ability to perform efficiently the

proposed services and those services which may be required by the public convenience and

necessity during the renewal period. The public convenience and necessity generally support the

appropriateness of the issuance of a renewal Certificate of Approval to Petitioner.

15. Petitioner has complied, and will continue to comply, with all rules, regulations and laws applicable to the construction, operation and maintenance of the System and will continue to provide safe, adequate and proper cable television service in Medford and the other municipalities in which it serves.

#### **COUNT TWO**

- 16. Comcast repeats paragraphs 1 through 15 of COUNT ONE as if set forth fully hereinafter.
- 17. As set forth in the COA Application and other information on file at the OCTV&T, the System operated by Comcast in the Township is part of larger regional cable television systems serving numerous other municipalities contiguous to and surrounding the Township.
- 18. As also set forth in the COA Application and other information on file at the OCTV&T, the Township represents an integral part of the Comcast regional cable television systems serving the counties of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem. In addition, the demographics of the Township, as well as its location and other factors, mandate that cable television service be provided by Comcast as part of Comcast's and its affiliates' regional systems.

- 19. The Township portion of Comcast's and its affiliates' Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem County regional cable systems is necessary for the continued provision of safe, adequate and economical cable television service to the citizens and residents of the Township and the larger cable television systems generally. Further, continuation of Comcast's operating authority in the Township will avoid an unreasonable duplication of services that would otherwise be detrimental to the development of adequate cable television service.
- 20. Comcast is entitled to a renewal of its Certificate of Approval for the Township, pursuant to the provisions of Section 17(b) of the New Jersey Cable Television Act, N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq.
- 21. Comcast believes that a Renewal Certificate of Approval for the Township of Medford is necessary and proper for the public convenience and will serve the public interest for reasons which include, inter alia, the following:
- a. The grant of a Renewal Certificate of Approval to Comcast will ensure the continued provision of cable television service to the residents of the Township;
- The services provided by Comcast as set forth in its COA Application are
   of great benefit to the citizens and residents of the Township;
- c. The financial strength and technical expertise of Comcast are more than adequate to continue to construct, operate and maintain its cable television system in the Township; and
- d. Comcast, its officers and its directors, have vast experience in all aspects of cable television. In particular, they possess and represent the highest degree of technical and engineering competence, significant administrative experience and a demonstrated

responsiveness to community needs. In addition to the Township, Comcast and other Comcast affiliates hold Certificates of Approval or other authorization to construct, operate and maintain cable television systems in more than 340 municipalities in New Jersey, as well as additional communities in 38 other states and the District of Columbia.

WHEREFORE, Comcast hereby requests that the Honorable Board of Public Utilities issue to Petitioner a Renewal Certificate of Approval to continue to construct, operate and maintain a cable television system in and for the Township of Medford.

Respectfully submitted,

SCARINCI & HOLLENBECK, LLC Attorneys for Petitioner Comcast of Garden State L.P.

By: Dennis C. Linken

Dated: March <u>27</u>, 2018

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES OFFICE OF CABLE TELEVISION & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

SCARINCI & HOLLENBECK, LLC 1100 Valley Brook Avenue Lyndhurst, NJ 07071-0790 Phone: 201-896-4100 Attorneys for Petitioner Comcast of Garden State L.P.

File No. 41000.3000

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF
COMCAST OF GARDEN STATE L.P., FOR A
RENEWAL CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL
TO CONTINUE TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE
AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION
SYSTEM IN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF
MEDFORD, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON,
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

VERIFICATION

Docket No.

## FRED DeANDREA hereby certifies as follows:

- I am Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs of Comcast of Garden State
   L.P., Petitioner in the within matter.
- I am familiar with the nature and contents of the Petition to which this
   Verification is annexed.
- The allegations of the Petition are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I may be subject to punishment.

Fred DeAndrea

Dated: March , 2018