



CITY COUNCIL
CHRIS HOLDEN
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 3

November 8, 1999

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Councilmember Holden *CH*

SUBJECT: Cable Television Provider

As we enter a new millennium, our city is presented with some exciting opportunities. One of those opportunities is utilizing the potential profit centers that emerges out of our Utility competing in a deregulated market. As we pursue laying out fiber optic cable throughout the city, we may be creating a network that offers more than simply increased access to the Internet. Cable television becomes an option we should consider.

Cable companies, as we are very aware, are notorious for gouging the public with unregulated increases in the rates to the consumer while offering limited product. This is not right nor in any way fair. To the extent we can pursue avenues of increasing competition, the consumer wins!

I have asked that Robert Person and Rufus Hightower assist in this discussion. There is also at least one article which shows us how a municipal utility is in the process of offering cable service to its customers.

I look forward to a good discussion on this topic and for direction we might be able to give to staff.

cc: Cynthia Kurtz, City Manager
Robert Person, Assistant to City Manager
Rufus Hightower, General Manager, WPD