



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

VIA ELECTRONIC & FIRST CLASS MAIL

August 22, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: MB Docket No. 14-57

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I write to provide the City of Chicago's perspective on the proposed merger of Comcast and Time Warner Cable. We understand that the Commission is to consider a number of factors, and nationwide effects, in evaluating a proposed business combination like Comcast's and Time Warner's. This letter does not purport to address all of those factors, or nationwide effects, but rather focuses on how a Comcast/Time Warner merger may affect Chicago.

From our perspective, we do not believe the proposed transaction would reduce choice, elevate prices, or otherwise harm consumers. Further, we are optimistic that the increased resources of the combined corporation will lead to more investment in local network infrastructure and faster Internet speeds. This is critically important to Chicago, as it would help achieve our goal of reducing the digital divide, allowing all Chicagoans to obtain effective access to the information and resources necessary to thrive in today's high-tech world.

Comcast currently makes considerable contributions in Chicago and we expect those contributions to continue – and increase – if the proposed combination is approved. Through its Internet Essentials program, the company partners with Chicago Public Schools, as well as hundreds of community and faith-based organizations, to provide affordable Internet access. Comcast is also a founding sponsor of 1871, Chicago's entrepreneurial hub for technology start-ups. The company also provides, free of charge, 1871's "backbone" – 500 MB of internet bandwidth. All told, each year Comcast donates more than \$15 million in direct and in-kind technological support throughout Chicagoland.

However, much remains to be accomplished in the arena of increasing access to technology among low-income and other underserved populations. Comcast has been a good partner with us in addressing these challenges in the past. We look forward to continuing to work with them and their broadband competitors in addressing these challenges in the future, including an even greater commitment of effort and resources to provide affordable access for low-income and other underserved residents. This Administration also places a very high priority on attentiveness to consumers' concerns and responsiveness to their needs, and we expect continued diligence and commitment from Comcast on that score as well. We are optimistic that the greater resources available to the merged entity should enable it to increase its investments and improve service in all of these areas.

In conclusion, we value and appreciate the strong and generous presence Comcast currently maintains in our city, and we are confident that the proposed combined corporation would maintain and enhance that strong and generous presence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rahm Emanuel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

Rahm Emanuel
Mayor