

# **TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

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## **GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Iowa City Telecommunications Commission (ICTC) is a City commission comprised of five Iowa City residents and is mandated to oversee and facilitate the smooth and effective operation of Iowa City's Broadband Telecommunications Network (BTN), the City's franchised cable television system, the City's designated cable access television stations and to advise the City Council on telecommunications related matters. The Commission makes recommendations to City Council in matters pertaining to the BTN, helps to resolve disputes about the operation of the BTN, conducts periodic evaluations of the BTN operations, and in general facilitates BTN use by citizens of Iowa City, which includes the provision of and promotion of the cable television access channels and community programming activities.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FISCAL YEAR 2012**

Monthly review of activities and services of the Iowa City cable television service provider/franchisee. Review of cable subscriber complaints about cable franchisee service received by the Cable TV Administrator and their resolution.

Ongoing review of Federal and State legislative and regulatory activity related to cable television and other telecommunications industries.

Reviewed or monitored legal decisions and developments that might affect Iowa City's cable television franchise. More specifically, monitored legal and regulatory developments related to "retransmission fees" that might impact on Iowa City's local cable service and its cost.

Monitored and reviewed activities of the cable television and broadband service provider industries to identify current or future issues that might affect Iowa City's cable subscribers or the Iowa City cable television franchise.

Reviewed annual calculation of basic cable rate and equipment rental cost of the cable service provider, as required by FCC regulations, for City Council evaluation and adoption.

Continued to support and work with relevant national organizations regarding legal challenges to FCC rule making related to the local franchising authority's rights and responsibilities.

Continued to support and work with relevant national organizations regarding passage of the Community Access Preservation Act ("CAP Act") designed to protect the rights of cities and their cable access television operations.

Monitored activities of local cable access channels or operations; received and reviewed monthly, quarterly and annual program and progress reports from the Cable TV Administrator, City Channel 4, Interactive Channel 5, Library Channel 10, Kirkwood's Channel 11, the University of Iowa Channel 17, PATV Access Channel 18, Educational Channel 21, Senior Citizen Television (SCTV) and the Community Television Service.