RESOLUTION NO. R2007-39

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING AT&T (FORMERLY BELLSOUTH) TO ENTER INTO CABLE FRANCHISE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE.

WHEREAS, AT&T (formerly BellSouth) submitted legislation for filing with the 104th Tennessee General Assembly on February 16, 2006, which was designated as Senate Bill 3210, and submitted substantially similar legislation in the 105th Tennessee General Assembly on February 14, 2007, which has been designated as Senate Bill 1933 and House Bill 1421; and

WHEREAS, this legislation would allow cable and telephone companies to bypass local governments and the local cable and video franchising process; and

WHEREAS, media reports have quoted AT&T officials as saying that the local franchise process is an impediment to competition; and

WHEREAS, the last application(s) for a cable franchise with this town took approximately three (3) months from application to approval; and

WHEREAS, the current cable franchising system has served the Town of Signal Mountain, Tennessee well by ensuring the town can protect its citizens, preserve its authority and that cable companies cannot "cherry pick" their customers; and

WHEREAS, additional Public, Education, and Government access venues would be of great value to the Town of Signal Mountain; and

WHEREAS, based on the Town of Signal Mountain's track record, AT&T could have already had their application for a franchise approved had they applied when they filed their legislation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN as follows:

1. That the Town of Signal Mountain hereby goes on record as requesting AT&T to enter into negotiations for a local cable franchise in the Town of Signal Mountain.

2. The Town Manager is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to Mr. Marty Dickens, president of AT&T in Tennessee, and to each State Senate and House member representing the citizens of the Town of Signal Mountain in the Tennessee General Assembly.

3. That this Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of the Town of Signal Mountain requiring it.

Paul M Hendrick
MAYOR

RECORDER

April 9, 2007
DATE

04-09-2007
DATE

PAN/kac