

Town Hall
Ward 6
September 18, 2006

Council Member Nina Trasoff: Good evening everybody and welcome. I'm Nina Trasoff, Council Member for Ward 6 and I thank you all for coming out...applause...no, no, no. The camera is not set up yet. This is Channel 12 that is recording this just so that you know what camera is here and that's the City's TV station. I'm glad you took the time to come out and I feel like I need to do a disclaimer, I had an Access TV show for little more than a year, so I get it, but I'm really pleased to see people. There are just a lot of things that need to be weighed in the decisions as we move forward so I'm really glad that you all took the time to come. The way it's gonna work tonight is Ann Strine is our Chief Information Officer for the City of Tucson and she's going to give you an update on where we stand and what's going on and then I'm gonna invite you all to speak. There will be a five minutes max for you and I hope you can respect that cause there's a lot of people who want to have a chance to speak and I'll try and do a little bit of dialog but mostly it's so that we can hear what you're thinking. I think it's really important to know who cares about what and why. So I'm gonna hold her to five minutes. I just told her just like I'm holding everybody else to five minutes so, this is Ann Strine

Ann Strine: Thank you Nina. I also want to welcome you tonight and thank you for coming. We are taping this over here, the audio. And that's so we need to go back and remember what someone said, we will have that. And then as she pointed out Channel 12 is here to capture this exciting going on in the City of Tucson. I want to give you just a little bit of background about why we're going through this, where we are in this process. A license is granted from a City to a cable company with under the Federal Cable Act. And it sets out the rights and obligations of, in this case the City, and Cox. We each have some things we need to do to make this license come together and support both of us. The Cable Act sets the maximum franchise fee at 5% of the gross revenues and this is in compensation to the City for the use of the rights of way, which is the streets and the edges along the side of the street that the city owns and maintains and so any one who puts a pole, a wire along the way owes the city some compensation for that so whether its Cox putting their cable along the side of the road or whether its TEP for their electric poles or gas or whatever all the utilities do pay the city for the use of that. I guess the City has to maintain it and it's a valuable property. Also, the Cable Act says that the license should support the community needs and that's one of the reasons we're here tonight. We want to hear what the community needs are. The current license was negotiated with TCI in 1997 for ten years and here we are. This license expires next September in 2007. This license was transferred to Cox about a year later and they accepted all of the elements of that license. It was a transfer. A few little changes that we made to accommodate Cox but in essence, they took that license over. And we had specified in there the customer service standards, the number of public access channels which are the public access, educational access and government access channels. A 5% license fee and we also had in this license an additional fee to support the operation of the public access channel and the government channel. And they're indicated on your bill

called PEG fees. As we're getting ready to renew this, we are under a timeframe that both the City and Cox want to adhere to in getting this agreement done before next summer. Next summer a new law goes into effect that was passed by the Arizona State Legislature this past session that adds some more constraints into what the City can do, what the City can negotiate in terms of a license. It allows for two analog, two digital channels, a limit on the definition of gross renews which is a little different than the definition we have now. So we want to get all this done before which gives us a little more flexibility in what the license renewal can be. We want to hear from you, the things you like about Cox, that's really important too, things you wish they would change, new features that you would like. If they aren't delivering a service that you think is really important and that is up and coming, tell us about what that is. So this discussion tonight is not just about the public access channels, although that's important and I know that many of you requested to speak about that but it's the whole array of service delivery that we get from Cox. So don't feel like you only have to say something, I don't like this, you can also say I like this. So we're looking for an agreement that's a win-win for everybody. That Cox feels good about and the City can feel good about. Thanks again for coming and Nina will call your names to speak.

CM Trasoff: And if anybody, those who want to speak please fill out a form that's over there and Ann will be happy to pass it across

Ann Strine: Would somebody else like a speaker form?

CM Trasoff: So fill them out and just hand them to me and

Ann Strine: It's page 2. It's the speaker form.

CM Trasoff: I sort of shuffled so we'll see who comes up when. So first person, Russ, I don't know if I want to try it, Krietemeyer

Russ Krietemeyer: Krietemeyer

CM Trasoff: Hey, I did it o.k.

Russ Krietemeyer: Thank you. My name is Russ Krietemeyer, I'm actually the Chairman of the Tucson Rodeo Parade Committee. Access 12 has been very beneficial to us and they've asked me to come and speak a few things about them. If you don't mind, I'm not a real eloquent speaker so I've got some things I would like to read. The Rodeo Parade Committee, first of all, is a non-profit organization so everything they provide to us is very beneficial.

1. Our relationship with Access Tucson is a three-way arrangement including the Tucson Rodeo Parade Committee, Access Tucson and KOLD Channel 13. KOLD uses their video production van to do the production for the parade. Without that, they cannot do the production and broadcast the parade for us.

2. Access Tucson provides the production, the broadcast and the continual rebroadcast, they continue to rebroadcast this a couple months after the parade so people

that cannot see the parade in February, also get an idea of what we're producing (unintelligible) parade. Without this, we're kind of stagnant.

3. Without Access Tucson's production assistance and coverage that they provide, visibility for the Tucson Rodeo Parade would vanish. If any of you are familiar with Tucson, a couple years ago, we lost production with another TV station in town, they stopped broadcasting the parade. A few years we picked it up later with KOLD with the help of Access Tucson. We know Access Tucson has a similar relationship with other important events across the region and we want to continue to be a part of that.

4. Access Tucson provides an integral and important communication service in this community. In closing it is important to the Tucson Rodeo Parade Committee that Access Tucson retain an Analog Channel so the maximum number of people in our community can view Access Tucson. Thank you for giving me time.

CM Trasoff: Thank you very much Russ. Are there others here who are benefiting that way also for a nonprofit or that use the Access? O.k. Just trying to get a sense of the group. Alright, next is Helen Gutierrez.

Helen Gutierrez: And do you want me to stand there to speak?

CM Trasoff: You may stand, well actually since they're filming it's probably a good idea.

Helen Gutierrez: O.k., I did the same, I wrote. . .

CM Trasoff: You're fine over here, wherever you're comfortable.

Helen Gutierrez: Well, I think the best thing about cable TV is that it's responsive to the community through Access Tucson. Access Tucson supports the Tucson Pima Public Library, our friends and our foundation group by inviting us to promote the community programming that we offer through the Local Matters show, Vicky Evans hosts the show and I've been on it several times over the past six years to promote library programming and we don't have a lot of money for advertising so it's been really terrific. The community finds out about these events through those TV shows and they come to the library. Also the grants that Access Tucson provides allowed me to have an historic tribute to Lalo Guerrero(sp). That was at the Fox Tucson Theater. It allowed me to have this videotaped. We filled the Fox to capacity that night and we had to turn people away. So those who didn't make it to the live performance were able to watch it on cable TV which is really wonderful and it was recorded on DVD so you can now check it out of your local library. And people bought it for gifts I mean it was such a wonderful quality production so I thought that was really great. The host of that, the MC of that event was Ernesto Cortiero (sp) Jr., a local journalist and carries a copy in his backpack still because he gets asked about it so much, so I think that's really neat. So without the grant from access Tucson I wouldn't have been able to record this historic, educational and entertaining event. It really is a continuing source of pride for our community, it's really important to me as a professional librarian who does outreach to the community. Also, I wanted to make a comment for a friend of mine who's very active in our neighborhood

association. She said that the Government Connection show on access Tucson has been really great for her neighborhood organization. There's a lot of information about pro-neighborhood which supports local nonprofits through funding and ideas and just personally, I subscribe to both internet phone and cable TV in my home and I do want public education and government channels and I want access to these type of channels for my work but also for my leisure time so thank you for the opportunity to speak.

CM Trasoff: Pleasure. Thank you very much. How many of you have Cox for other than cable? O.k. Thank you. Do you mind my asking? I just think it's interesting to see whose here, and it gives me a good sense. O.k., we have Flora Edwards next.

Flora Edwards: Thank you. My name is Flora Edwards and I am producer at Access Tucson. I must say from Wednesday to Saturday, I use their equipment and produce many shows but I do think that the voice of the people, the Fourth Amendment, our ability to go in of course to compete with Hollywood who has fantastic equipment, brand new, and it's hard, I mean, if I'm on and James Bond's on, what will happen to us. I think Cox should put in more investment because I believe we could be a beneficial thing to this community. If you've seen the work with what we have come out of there, there's many beautiful things. The important thing is is they watch it. Do they watch it? With more money, we could make a better-looking package that we pay our employees more. And we could have it open more days. But personally I have to thank you very much Mr. Cox but I want to bring out that Eminem with his records and just a you know a new company like him and the other rappers have done more and shared with the community than Wal-Mart or anybody and that's pretty good so believe in art I think it can work and I think we have a lot of them in this town. This is an inexpensive town to live so they all came over here. We have this precious jewels here, how to make it work. Cox that gives it to us, why not? They love us; we love them, we work what right now for free, for free. All these televisions shows for free. We've got a remarkable talent, where would they know, where would they have seen it? If that guy was to play downtown just a few of them there would see it. No, right now everybody check it out and say oh my goodness it helps, it helps the community. And you make us better off and you make yourself better off. Then we'll buy your cable. Thank you very much.

CM Trasoff: Thank you so much Flora. How many people here are producers of shows? O.k., Thank you. O.k. Glenn Wolfgang.

Glenn Wolfgang: O.k. I'm here for Access Tucson too. And I'm a producer at Access and I think that we just heard about how Access's producers can have an effect on the community. We've heard from the library, we've heard from the Rodeo Association, you'll hear from a lot of associations. If they only avenue for television is through an association, they're going to limit the access of individual people and their ideas. Sometimes the best ideas don't necessarily come through the Rodeo Association Ages ago there was a women in Three Mile Island. She was very upset, she thought that her family was in danger because of chemicals and there wasn't really a way for her to actually be heard, like Access Tucson there. So she had to go through a great deal more trouble to try to draw attention to her problem than she would have if she had Access

television to actually represent her or a television group. Someway that she could actually go out and present her problem to a larger community as an individual and not just a group. When you allow for the channels, the wide variety that the actual Access channels creates by letting anybody come in and take classes and create a show, you create a lot of opportunity. You create opportunities for young people to become media experts and go out and earn money and bring money into the community and jobs but you also create opportunities for people that may have a problem expressing their concern on a wider range such as that women in Three Mile Island. Oh, that's all, thank you.

CM Trasoff: Thank you very much. I'm just trying to scribble notes so that I can remember, I know that we've got all the recordings but I do better if I've written something down myself. Next is Debra Rollinson.

Debra Rollinson: Hello everyone, I'm Debra Rollinson and I've been in a number of Access Tucson (unintelligible) and you know there's one group that I think is been sort of been overlooked cause I haven't heard anybody mention them yet but I will. At Access Tucson, a lot of the members are very handicapped. I'd say maybe as many as 50%. They're either seriously mentally handicapped, they have schizophrenia, manic depressive disorder, autism, etc. Others don't have anything wrong with them mentally, but they're very physically handicapped, they're very sick, some of them need to wear diapers. And all of these people are people that are very poor, they're either on SSI or on welfare and they don't have money to spend but Access Tucson is the one place where these people can go and they can be part of the group and they do. I haven't seen anybody come there as a member who couldn't fit in somewhere and work on a show and some of them have their own shows. I know a schizophrenic down there who had his own show. And it's really wonderful for these people because they're not only included but they get to feel like they're a part of the larger society instead of being pushed aside or swept under the rug and ignored. They're there and they're visible. In fact, occasionally there's one young woman I knew from Texas. She was borderline retarded and she volunteered at Access Tucson for about five or six years. She went back to Texas and she got a job at a TV station. And there's another man I knew at Access Tucson who was on SSI most of his life because he had Autism and after a few years he became a camera man for one of the local stations down here. So it does such a tremendous amount of good for people and I really hate to see it go away if Cox doesn't want to finance it I hope that the City will find someway to help us get some money if for no other reason just for the sake of these poor people that are just so cast aside and overlooked. Thank you.

CM Trasoff: Debra, thank you very much. And you raised a wonderful point that a lot of people aren't aware of. Ron

Ron Manzi: Good evening everybody. My name is Ron Manzi. I've been a property owner about 23 years now in Pima County and City of Tucson. I live in the City of Tucson. You know I get my cable bill and I gotta pay \$1.35 to get PEG access on channels that I own. 1986 the federal law was passed. We allowed these cable companies to come in supposedly to help the community. They're supposed to give 5%

of all their revenues. How nice. How really nice. And then we have the legislators up there in Phoenix that passed an illegal law, the federal law supersedes it, to give away two channels. To the Cox people. Worth \$100 million. Cause I'm running for the state legislature in 2008 District 29 you better believe I'm gonna run unopposed. \$250 billion this is CNN, and Consumer Reports \$250 billion was spent between 1998 and 2001 to form monopolies. Cable monopolies. But I understand Sherman Antitrust 1933, what are they doing. We're not going to do anything till we get this criminal Republican mafia out of Congress in November. Thank you. They're spending money, always spending to improve our cables in community. Baloney! Baloney! Spending money to merge, merge, merge, so there's no competition. It's been a proven fact that you have two cable companies, rates go down. Well there's only one here, and they get \$141 a month from me. Great service I get. Great service, I must say. It's truly unbelievable what we are letting these outside companies from Atlanta and from all the raping the state, raping this city. It's your money. Profits, profits, profits. 1997 \$7 billion, 2003 \$19 billion. How about today, \$22 billion. Privately held company. We have to get Nina and the whole group to go in there and audit, I want to see how much revenue, how many subscribers are coming in. This city's booming. O.k. And then Mrs. Cox and Mr. Cox 79 years old, \$11 billion trust and the other one 81 years old, I wouldn't go to their house their gonna give you a cookie. How bout a good union for Cox, O.k. Surely grandchildren are just waiting for them to you know what, right. I'm sick of it and I'm sick of it and you people have to wake up, o.k. Access Tucson I was on the Board of Directors, o.k., for one year. Completely couldn't do anything with them. It just they all vote for management, alright. You can't have an organization Access Tucson closed on Tuesday, closed on Sunday, open on noon, closed 10 p.m. You run the business and tell me how you're gonna do, o.k. I'm very well treated at Access Tucson, I have a hip-hop show, my brother has a science show (unintelligible). They're great people, wonderful people. Do they gotta get funding, are they due in for \$1 million, I don't know. That's Nina's job. She's gotta shop around, is there another company? I don't know. You can't operate with closed Tuesday, closed Sunday, open noon and shut at 10 p.m. Doesn't work, o.k.? And with that I thank you very much.

CM Trasoff: Thank you Ron. Kevin Matovina? Did I butcher it or is it close?

Kevin Matovina: No it's close. My name's Kevin. I'm a transplant from Chicago. Came to Tucson a couple of years ago to work in the construction trades and got a little injury because of that. But I saw an ad in the paper for TV producers and I took a little class and a year later I'm proud to say that I've got a movie on TV tonight, at 8pm. In a year's time that I worked, participated at Access Tucson I had nothing but praise and people helping me out and so I think it's a great opportunity for anybody that basically wants to get a shot at being a producer or try and be a filmmaker or doing whatever they have a dream of doing so I kinda started out just coming to town being a carpenter and ended up being on TV so I think if they can keep those three channels open and keep the opportunity for people to express themselves, I think it's a great idea. And one of the main things that impressed me about Access Tucson was the fact that they had no censorship, they just said, whatever you'd like to put on TV you can. And I was really impressed by that cause coming from Chicago, which is pretty much the land of

corruption, you can't really get anything done without any money, so coming here to Tucson and finding out that you could speak your peace or say what you'd like to say, and have the opportunity to do is really kinda what America is really all about, I think and if that hadn't happened I wouldn't be standing up here now so, thanks Access Tucson.

CM Trasoff: Thank you Kevin. Are there many of you who have found new doors opened to you with the training that you've gotten at Access Tucson? Good. O.k. Jonathan.

Jonathan Levy: My name is Jonathan Levy and I just want to talk a very briefly about a show that I just started co-producing for Tucson Vision. I work with the refugee population here in Tucson and we were finding that we have a very significant Somalian population here and they are absolutely having tremendous challenges integrating in a larger community. Largely the language but there's no way for the people that serve them, the school district, the police, the hospitals and so on to talk to them because Somalia is a very rare language. So we thought about how can we figure out a way to put this community in touch with the agencies that they need to serve and also in touch with each other. How can we get them something that would help them find a place here in this town. So we called up Access Tucson and spoke with Vicki and it was amazing. They immediately saw a match with the Tucson Vision program within a matter of a couple weeks, we were producing our own show—Somali Tucson Television. On Wednesday we'll shoot our second episode and so far this has generated an amazing amount of interest and I'll describe it a little bit, something that's actually getting national attention and I think it'll reinforce this gentlemen's point about something getting done very quickly that couldn't happen in a regular format. Just to let you know what the format looks like, we have a host, he speaks Somali, interviews people from the community in Somalian, we show videos and interviews of the people in the community that talk about upcoming events. Next week we're producing a show about, Tucson Unified School District and the show before that we're talking about Ramadan. This Saturday we went and did our interviews with people at a picnic, a refugee picnic, about their ideas about how Ramadan is observed here in Tucson. And the kind of feedback we were getting was amazing. After they learned what this show was about and what it was trying to accomplish and it was going to be a show made by Somalis for Somalis, in their own language, they were absolutely blown away. And we had a number of them saying the most striking thing we heard was a women saying, before we came to this country, we were told that Americans hate Muslims, that they will not let us practice our religion and we are going to be a persecuted community. What we found since we got here is that we have friends in this community and here's the evidence. You guys are here talking to us about our religion in a respectful way and she was just like we love this country we want to succeed here and we love this community. That type of interaction would have been impossible without Tucson Vision and Access Tucson. There's no way that that would have been accomplished through traditional media channels. There's not enough people in the Somalian community to make it worth their while. There's no money there. There's no bottom line reason. We feel we have an opportunity to really create something special by eventually training young Somali people to work the cameras to

produce the media to get their show going, to make what they want to make to give a concrete illustration of our country's belief in freedom of speech. And I cannot tell you how important that is to integrate young Muslims that have come to this country from places like Somalia and to understand the value of our way of life. And I'm sure you can imagine why that is such a critical point. I spoke with a friend of mine at the state department today and he actually asked me, after hearing about how the show's going, he said can the Voice of America get transcripts? He wanted to put this on the Voice of America. This has a real important place because it's a grass roots effort that represents what is best in our society and so I think that if there is any question about whether there should be less of it, than the answer is obviously no. And if it's something, the community has a right to from the outset, than its something we should not only fight to keep but fight to expand because this is something that gets to the basis of what makes our country strong and what will keep us safe down the road. And to give that up for bottom line issues is short sighted. So, I'd like to thank you for your attention.

CM Trasoff: Thank you Jonathan. O.k., Lou Bright.

Lou Bright: My name is Lou Bright. Like everybody here I'm a Cox subscriber, I'm also a member of Access Tucson and I'm also a member of the community. And after listening to what everybody's had to say so far, you just hear the same story over and over again that there's a lot involved with what Access has done for the community and what the community does for Access Tucson. And I really need to look at the bottom line and say, are we really gonna get more from Cox by giving up Access Tucson? I don't think so, I think the community needs Access Tucson as much as Access Tucson needs the community. And if Cox doesn't support us, I think the City needs to support us because they made the right decision the first time around in the initial negotiations. Yes, if we are gonna have a cable network, we do need community input and I hope they stand by their guns.

CM Trasoff: Thank you very much, Lou. Robert Choate

Robert Choate: First of all for Access Tucson, I own them an apology. Even though being with them for 10 years, that I haven't given back to them more than what they gave to us. We're airing out to 40 million viewers weekly in our broadcast "City Talks" and in so doing we've seen people that have decided not to do suicides—we have documents for this. Africa, we were able to help to drill for water wells and over 300,000 lives were saved. I can share some very dramatic, dramatic results that came out of this. And to me its kind a like football or basketball or baseball team when its non-professional people play cause they're fun, they're enjoying it, they're getting together, they're finding out each others strengths and weaknesses. They're getting on the same team together and then when they hit a place of excellence then their picked up and they're brought into pro ball. Like Nina said, she was on it for a year, I'm sure whether she did right on television is how she got to here. So I'm coming back to Access smaller because I rest there. Why do I rest there? There were people that got in my face and said, you're screwing up here, you don't know what you're doing here, you're off here, and at first it was offensive, but I realized they saw something where I was to go one day. And it comes with a great

responsibility when you hit an international television show. You're dealing with death and dying issues, you're dealing with plights, aids, things I can go on by some of you in this room that are doing good. I weep more than I laugh because of the responsibilities. But I am thankful to do one thing. I'm trying now to raise up younger people to get in the saddle with a spirit of excellence whatever religion that they happen to be and get Sam I haven't spent more time with or the others, they're dog tired trying to keep an excellent platform for that one person that's gonna do like the Voice of America or some of you in this room have some residing inside you and say I know I've got something good, something God put in me, I can encourage something with or somebody with and Access Tucson brings that out of you. And sometimes they will fight you to see are you have enough vision to go and take what you're gonna deal with public ally being put down. So for me I owe them a lot. I still tape a lot of our segments for the International airing out of there. Now I'm doing it slower because of the ramifications cause we're getting invited into Parliament, to the White House, etc., etc., but I don't wanna name drop or anything like that. I wanna name raise Access Tucson for tomorrow's talent, tomorrow's politicians, tomorrow's youth. Who knows what's coming out of this City of excellence. And I know it's gonna be funded by somebody whether it's Cox or a private donor, I have no qualms about it cause it's done too much already of tremendous value. So those of you that are behind it, I thank you for encouraging them.

CM Trasoff: Thank you very much, Robert. Sheldon Gutman?

Sheldon Gutman: If I would have known I was gonna speak, I would have shaved. I've had Cox for several years and I really watch CSpan and lean to live, issues of death and dying and Katrina and Lebanon stem cell research (unintelligible). As far as Cox, Cox has signed a contract with the State of Arizona, maybe when we're in the negotiations with the State of Arizona maybe they could get some coverage of the state legislature on tape or live of the hearings in the state legislature because the press can't cover all the bills you know. They pick up a handful of bills every week and that's fine but the hot button issues, they may not cover in the press so if we can get some coverage of some state legislative hearings and votes on the floor of the House that would add to you know the coverage of Congress, City Council, Pima County. And you can't get CSpan 3 here from Cox for some reason. There's CSpan 1 and 2 covering the Congress taped or live and for some reason we are censored, Tucson is censored out of getting CSpan rated. But a the Council and Trasoff can investigate what's the problem here. Does Cox have to pay some money to get CSpan 3 in Tucson and lastly, well I thank you and root for the Sidewinders and we hope we might have a parade for them.

CM Trasoff: Wouldn't that be neat. Thank you very much Sheldon. Ann do you have anything you can say at least on the CSpan 3?

Ann Strine: I don't but I must apologize, you know I got all nervous with the cameras and they weren't for me and I said that don't you dare tape me so I was thinking about them and I did not introduce Michael DiMaria, who is here tonight, he is the person that I work with most from Cox. He's the interface to us so I apologize Michael, I was sidetracked. Do you have any comments you'd like to make about?

Michael DiMaria: I don't have any specific Nina on Cspan 3, I'll go back and take a peek at it for him though and see what's (unintelligible) we're looking at. Just so folks know, actually Cspan and Cspan 2 were created by the cable industry so we do have a vested interest in all the Cspan products as frankly we're the ones who started Cspan and keep it running today so it's something I'll definitely look at and Sheldon let me get my card for card for you.

CM Trasoff: So what's the shot at getting to see the legislators at work?

Michael DiMaria: You know there's some discussion Nina up in Phoenix about you know that because I think now they're seeing kind of a (unintelligible) and previously they hadn't so we'll see if that gets off the ground but I know there's starting to be some ruminations in Phoenix (unintelligible) about the possibility of doing something like that and obviously we're always interested in finding a way to do that.

CM Trasoff: I'm intrigued by that you know all of ours are, and I'm astounded by the number of people when I'm out and about who talk about watching City Council regularly. I think they're out of their minds. No, actually most of the meetings are really, really interesting although we have to wade through a lot but I really admire and respect the fact that people care enough about their city government that they want to watch it, that they choose to watch it and participate in that way, I think it's great and I think the more educated a community is, the better it is. Reed Thompson, speaking of education, are you with Sunnyside Schools?

Reed Thompson: Yes maam. My name's Reed Thompson, I work for the Sunnyside Unified School District, on the southside of Tucson and we have programming on the K12 channel which is cooperative with TUSD. Our little block of time we call SUTV. And our anchor programming for our time is, our primary show is the Sunnyside update which is anchored by students in the district and I am the primary, I'm the videographer, editor, director, what have you, then I have students that work with me behind the scenes, not just on camera, and this meeting was brought to my attention, I guess it was Friday, and it's my understanding that there's a chance we might lose part of our time, if not all, and that would be a big blow to the Sunnyside district and I think the morale of many of the students that are involved, and really all the students are involved because, not only are the students that are on camera, behind the scenes involved but the students who are featured in our programming are very much involved. I think our show, our program, like I said's called the Sunnyside Update and what it is it's a news program, it's about 10 to 12 minutes long, we don't really have a set time and it is a way for us to get out news and highlights of the district to all of those in the community. And I know it reaches a lot of people. We are really just now starting to catch our stride, get our niche. You know last year at this time I'd go around the district, my job entails going around the district to all the high schools, middle schools, elementary schools and in doing so you know I have this nice camera and kids used to always ask me what channel are we gonna be on and now they know what channel, you know they see us on TV, they see themselves, their friends, their teachers, their schools, the events they go on and you know it really does

foster I think a sense of pride in the community, a community that needs it most in Tucson is definitely the southside, Sunnyside community. And I know that we are viewed a lot because I get inundated with requests, you know, how can I get a copy of what I saw on Channel 20, or when are you going to come tape us to be on Channel 20 on SU TV? So I know it's made a big impact on the Sunnyside District. Our students, our high schools are Desert View and Sunnyside have video production classes and from those classes we interview the top students, they come through and do an interview process to be either on air personalities or our production assistants which entails shooting, editing, production assistance, what have you and you know it really is, without our Cox programming a lot of what we do will go by the wayside. I'd say 90% if not more of what we do is for the channel. We do other things like recruitment videos to recruit teachers around the country. Sort of morale booster videos that we show at various functions but for the most part things we show go on the channel and if we lost it, it'd be a big blow, like I said so I appreciate it.

CM Trasoff: Thank you very much Reed. I'm curious, we had Jonathan was talking about the Somali language program, are there any of you others in here who produce programs in languages other than English.

Unidentified male: European languages.

Unidentified female: I'm with TUSD TV, I work with Reed too, (unintelligible) multi language too, we do Spanish

Unidentified female (2): I'm with Sunnyside Unified School District and we don't have it currently but our plan is to start doing Spanish programming. We've had consultants tell us that the way to reach our Spanish speaking families is through television.

CM Trasoff: Very good, thank you. What languages? O.k. Mary Beth Haralovich?

Mary Beth Haralovich: Thanks for having this meeting. I'm not a producer at Access although I'd like to be but I wanted to talk a little bit about the PEG funds. I'm a Cox subscriber, professor at the University of Arizona. My husband is a cable guy who installs cable and Access is on at our house every single day, for Democracy Now. But also (unintelligible) other shows and I wanted to talk about the PEG funds primarily because PEG funds really go back to the roots of what media is all about and PEG funds are the way the gates stay open to the community. To close off the PEG funds, than you've closed off a really important voice, a really important gate for our democracy and for diversity as we've heard tonight and for community. The PEG funds are about freedom of speech. It's about our fundamental rights as Americans and our access to the airwaves even though it's on cable it still (unintelligible) the airwaves. And secondly, this last year I saw two documentary films that could not have been made without the Access Tucson footage. One was about radio, alternative radio in Tucson and they had footage from Access. The other one was a two hour documentary on the music history of Tucson called "High and Dry" and that movie could not exist without Access because that filmmaker called the archives at Access and found footage that helped him describe

the history of punk rock in Tucson. I'm not a producer at Access but I have an idea for a show that I'm developing about, we all know that CSI's have encouraged young people to go into forensics, for instance. With a friend of mine who works for the City of Tucson crime lab, we're developing an idea for a show that would look at Tucson criminal investigation. We would look at, for example, rape and sexual assault cases and with Access we could bring on the counselors, we could bring on the police officers who do this kind of investigation. We wanted to have not just, it's not entertainment the way it is on CBS. It would be about education. So if you wanted to go into this field, the end of the show would be here's how you could do it, these are the courses these people took. These are what they studied. This is how they, how they learned to do their good work as investigators and we have an idea to do a multiple part series dealing with different kinds of investigations, you know, arson, burglary, armed robberies, etc. So that couldn't happen without PEG funds. There's just no way that Tucson could have a show that's about its own police activities. Thank you.

CM Trasoff: Thank you Mary Beth. And I have one more card if anybody else wants to speak, please feel out. The last person I have is Fernando Moraga

Fernando Moraga: I'm here on behalf of Access Tucson as well. I'm not a producer or anything. I have been on the show, hosting a show for Tucson Vision, as well as Local Matters, twice. And the reason that I went on those programs because they do provide a lot of education, a lot of resource for the people of the community and I felt that it was important that the company that I work for which is a part of the community to help low income individuals to find a quality place to live was a place to broadcast that. And when I brought it up to my company they said, well, Access Tucson, who really watches that? And I said you'd be surprised that you get when you do a program on this type of thing. I said let me do a show and let me show you what we can do. We did two shows and I cannot tell you the overwhelming response we got from the community about their being on Section 8 them being on La Frontera, different other government programs where they felt that they could not live in a quality place because they didn't know anything about it. No one explains these programs to them, no one explains where they can live. They can have a quality decent living experience just because they're on these programs, it doesn't mean they can't cut it. When we aired the few times that it came out, I know that the vice president of my company called me and said, that was the best thing you ever did. He said I have never had so many phone calls come through this company regarding how you represented our company and I just want to say thank you, is what he said. Another job that I had which I do an outreach program to teenagers and children about HIV awareness. I did a couple shows on there and just going to the store, going in the street, I had kids coming up to me and telling me that was a great show that you did, I learned so much from the information that you provided for us and when is your next show coming up. When are you going to be doing another one. And now when I go out to high schools or when I go out schools to speak to children about this, it's something that sometimes I show them the tape so they can see what kinds of things are out there, the education that they need. I think that it's an excellent resource for the community to look at and watch it. I know that I watch the Tucson City Channel 12. I went to Sunnyside myself, I've seen the programs there and I think they're great. I think that's its one

untapped resource people don't realize that they can just get full knowledge of the business that they want to get started in the business, just over everything they can do, it's overwhelming. I think that it's a good positive thing and I think there should be more of it on there versus taking it away.

CM Trasoff: Very good. Thank you Fernando. Did I have other cards?

Unidentified male: Yeah, I didn't find a form but I just got it shown it was on the second. I was writing you a note...

CM Trasoff: Well why don't you come talk first and then we'll figure out the form. And did you have a form also?

Unidentified male 2: I have this form?

CM Trasoff: The second page of it...yeah please.

Stuart Thomas: My name is Stuart Thomas. I know some of you I spoke with at the Ward 3 other meeting. I had a show opposite the last meeting of Steve Leal from 6-7 p.m. so I couldn't be in both places. However, I wanna cover basically two areas of what Access Tucson and those channels, what the PEG channels mean to me. One from a participant perspective and the other from a your subscriber perspective. As far as a participant is concerned, I have the opportunity like all of you can have, of having your own show. I've been producing and/or hosting shows, occasionally co-hosting, but usually hosting shows for eleven years. The current count is something like 400 something shows that I've done. Some of them are either live or live to tape which means you don't get to redo them usually. That's it. So it's been a marvelous experience for me. Many of the things that I've done over those years have been with nonprofits. Where else can nonprofits get the play that Access Tucson's giving? They don't. I've done shows for Toastmasters International, locally, the local chapter. What they do is help people improve their speaking and leadership skills. I produced and hosted that show for five years and then I turned it over to someone else because I wanted to develop other shows. If that isn't a gift to the community, helping people improve their oral communication, leadership skills, what is? I produced and hosted a show representing American Society for Training and Development, Old Pueblo Chapter. We called it fundamentals of training and development. I had trainers from the Old Pueblo Chapter of the American Society for Training and Development demonstrating over the cable ways how to train people. What else have we done. I had a series called Tucson Nonprofit council talk. We had a number of smaller nonprofits talk. Where else could they get the exposure except Access Tucson. I did a whole series on Toastmasters before we actually did the Toastmaster meetings on television. I interviewed Toastmasters and they talked about their experience and the skills that they learned at Toastmasters. I had a whole series on the American Society for Training and Development where I interviewed trainers in terms of what they do professionally independent of that fundamentals thing. Just talking about their lives, their jobs and communicating their skills. I can't remember them all off the top of my head, after all it's 11 years and 400 something shows. I'm

currently producing and hosting a show called, "World harmony, Can it happen?" And it's meant to bring more people harmony into our world. It's interesting, on my last show, I had Karen Uhlich, who as you know is a city council person. But that's not the primary reason I had her on. She is the executive director of the Southwest Center for Economic Integrity. What do they do? What they do is, is, is, is, what's the word? They deal with scams. The check cashing, mortgage scams, title loan scams, that kinda thing. And that's mostly what we talked about on the show. My next show I'm gonna have Mollie McCassen(sp) on and not because she's a city council person any more because she's not. But she went to Jordan and Syria and interviewed people who had left Iraq and we're gonna talk about her experience. Maybe some of you read about it in the Arizona Daily Star. That's where I learned she had done it. The first two shows in this whole series were on mediation because if we ever want world harmony, locally or globally, mediation basically is a huge way to get it. And where else can you get this kind of stuff except on Access Tucson. So please, now, that's from a perspective of a participant and before I leave that topic, I just wanna say anybody in this room can have a show on Access Tucson. If you ever try to do that on Channel 4, 9, 13, 6 or 11? I did. I had a prior show, saying what was right with this country called the American Spirit. I brought it to the General Managers of 13, 9, 6, and 4 and I met with the Program Manager of 11. You know what the overall problem was? Money. They all wanted, well you know if you can raise the money to pay for it, sure we'll consider. So Access Tucson's a treasure from a perspective of getting involved and doing something meaningful with your life on television sharing it with your fellow community people. Interestingly enough, one other thing and then I'm gonna switch to the other viewer subscriber part. People from, I have someone who I've been in communication with her name's Jackie Walsh, who has emailed me she's watched my show from England. Now how and the heck can you do that? Well you do it by the internet. All of our shows are on the internet. You go to WWW.accesstucson.org and you go from there. Sam can give me instructions. I have them written out, and it's not that hard. One time she criticized the shirt I was wearing another time she praised it. But she watched it from England. That's a God's gift, you can't even watch Channel 4, 9, 13, 11 as far as I know, maybe you can on the internet maybe they have their www's too, I don't know. Such a thing I shouldn't say that. From a viewer subscriber perspective. The main primary reason I subscribe to cable and I do, Cox Cable, is I wanted to see not only my show but other public access shows. There's some darn good ones, they're very interesting ones. Things like Arizona Examiner, the political perspectives. I tend to be into that aspect of them but there are a whole hoard of other kinds of shows and they're very, very interesting. If you've ever watched them, you know some your going to enjoy more than others depending on your interest. But someone mentioned Democracy Now, boy has that changed me. The news that we get on the corporate media doesn't show the stuff that she showed, Amy Goodman shows. Or the source codes of shows or the INN news shows. I'll give you a brief example. When we went into Iraq, all the channels that I saw showed the fireworks, all over the city of Baghdad, they called it shock and awe. O.k., we, it seemed like the fireworks on the 4th of July. Alright, CNN, I never knew, has an international as well as a domestic CNN. Now CNN shows what everybody else showed. But CNN international showed a split screen. So what we're seeing, and I'll tell you what that is in a minute. But what we're seeing is the shock and awe what the world is seeing half a screen of shock and awe and

the other half what looks like civilian casualties. Now how do we know how the world is looking at us, when we only go through our corporate media. We don't. I didn't! CNN, now Amy Goodman asked an executive from CNN International, Why didn't you show it globally, domestically. Well, it's in poor taste to show those things. Well, duh, of course it's in poor taste but how does the American public know what the rest of the world is seeing unless we see it. And how do you know, why do, how can we understand why they don't like us or they hate us or whatever, if we don't see what they're seeing? That's input for them that we're not getting. So to understand the situation we gotta see that. So on another level too, I love watching Pima Community College's Psychology Today and what was the other one I really like, and there's a history part. And I do occasionally watch city council meetings which is a Godsend cause we don't have to physically go and worry about parking and all of that but still be intone and I also like to watch the UA channel.

Ron Manzi: What about my hip-hop show? I'm very insulted. Twice a week I have my hip-hop show, all local talent.

Stuart Thomas: See, that's another thing. You get local talent who get exposed in a way that we can all appreciate.

CM Trasoff: Thank you Stuart. One more gentleman wanted to speak? Thank you very much. Ted?

Tad Beckwith: I came to Access Tucson and was really excited about it, the orientation and wanted to do a show. I had been to China for five months and I wanted to do a show called Let's Visit China. Still working on that but I feel very strongly that Access Tucson is like public parks, public libraries, a place even if it's empty sometimes which I get a sense that it's not empty at all. But even if it's kinda open from time to time, I feel like that's very valuable and I was just thinking of a little anecdote when I was in china, I met with another filmmaker, much more experienced than I was who was from France. We spoke in Spanish and he told me about his government funding his project. I was just amazed at the level of funding that he could acquire through grants and that kinda stuff and I just thought that is really the direction that I would like us to move into and I feel strongly about that and that's why I rode my bike a couple miles to be here tonight and that's why I'm learning with Access how to be a videographer and actually through my studying of one of the cameras was able to get a job as somebody who took film for an event. So I feel like it is a valuable resource Access Tucson is and a vehicle for them to share are these public channels and I feel like taking away these is kind of like, in my mind, cutting up a public park. So it may be able to be run in a different way that maybe is a little bit more flashy or ahs big money but I also feel like it's just the value to have it be public and have the folks who have \$5 or \$100 for their show rather than hundreds of thousands of dollars for their show. And I also appreciate Cox and I have internet through Cox and I don't want this to be an us vs. them at all at least in my talk and I guess I sense that I'm standing for the public right away in this situation so I think that's what this is.

CM Trasoff: Thank you Ted. Well, I thank you all for coming, and if I'm accurate what I'm hearing is not so much complaints about Cox as just a passionate plea to keep the stations for the variety of reasons that we've heard and I've gotta tell ya I've heard a lot of things that I wasn't aware of and so I appreciate the fact that you all came out and took the time to share your personal stories or approaches/perspectives with us. I'm very glad that the people from Cox came also, I'm glad you had the chance to hear positive support and also a very strong request so we'll see where it goes. I'm making a point of staying out of it until it's time for us to get into it. I trust Ann and the work that her team is doing. So with that I thank you all very, very much for coming. I hope this has been productive for you as well. We have this recorded and I will be sharing what I've learned with my colleagues. So thank you all very much for coming this evening.