



*The Leader in Public Sector Law*

## 5 Reasons To Take Cable TV License Renewal Seriously

1. **Many cable systems are old and need to be updated.** Many towns still have a 450 MHz system which is the cable equivalent of a dinosaur. System upgrades to 650 MHz, 750 MHz, or 870 MHz can provide more channels, clearer pictures, and access to high speed internet services.
2. **Many existing systems need to be built out.** There may be streets, neighborhoods, or subdivisions within the Town that have not been cabled even though most licenses obligate a cable operator to build out into all areas of the town (with certain exceptions). During the renewal process, you may discover that there are areas that were supposed to be cabled, but never were.
3. **Signal quality can be improved.** The FCC has technical specifications for signal quality, however, in many towns, particularly those with older systems, the cable system does not comply. There are remedies for this, but the best time to pressure the cable operator to improve signal quality is during the license renewal process.
4. **Customer service complaints can be addressed.** Many subscribers have significant problems with service calls or billing questions. A cable operator is highly motivated to correct these types of problems during renewal negotiations.
5. **Contributions towards Access programming can be negotiated.** If the Town has, or wants to have, a viable Access program, the laws governing cable license renewal permit the Town to seek money or equipment contributions towards the Town's Access programming. This requires some homework on the part of the Town, but the rewards here can be great.

*If you any questions about cable licensing, license renewals, license transfers or Access programming please contact Bill Hewig at 617-654-1711 or [whewig@k-plaw.com](mailto:whewig@k-plaw.com).*