

HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA ORDINANCE NO. 2023-001

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HILLTOWN AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP AND COMCAST OF SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA, LLC

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, and the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (collectively known as the "Cable Act"), the regulations of the Federal Communications Commission, and applicable Pennsylvania law, Hilltown Township (the "Township") is authorized to grant and renew non-exclusive franchises to construct, operate and maintain cable systems utilizing the public rights-of-way and other properties within the Township's jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2006, the Township granted Comcast of Southeastern Pennsylvania ("Comcast") a non-exclusive initial franchise to install, maintain, extend and operate a cable system in the Township; and

WHEREAS, Comcast has installed, operated and maintained its cable system in accordance with the initial franchise agreement executed with the Township, as well as all applicable laws, regulations, and ordinances; and

WHEREAS, for Comcast to continue to maintain, operate and upgrade its cable system, Comcast has requested that the Township renew Comcast's franchise agreement for a period of ten (10) years; and

WHEREAS, the Township has examined the past performance of Comcast and has identified the Township's future cable-related needs and interests; and

WHEREAS, the Township has determined that Comcast possesses the financial, legal, and technical ability to continue providing cable services to its subscribers located within the Township; and

WHEREAS, following good faith negotiations between the Township and Comcast, the parties have agreed upon the terms and conditions of a renewed and revised Franchise Agreement under which Comcast will continue to operate, maintain, and upgrade its cable system within the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township, after affording the public notice and opportunity to comment, has determined that the public interest would be served by renewing and extending Comcast's franchise in accordance with the terms and conditions of the renewed and revised Franchise Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED THAT:

SECTION 1: Grant of Franchise

The Board of Supervisors of Hilltown Township hereby approves the renewed and revised Franchise Agreement negotiated between the Township and Comcast, and does hereby authorize execution of said agreement. Copies of said Franchise Agreement are available at the Township Building.

SECTION 2: Repealer

All ordinances inconsistent with the attached Franchise Agreement by and between the Township and Comcast are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3: Severability

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, then such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holding shall not render this Ordinance invalid.

SECTION 4: Effective Date

This Ordinance shall become effective as provided by law.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED this 27th day of March 2023, by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Hilltown, in lawful session duly assembled.

HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

James C. Groff, Chauman

Attest:

Township Manager/Secretary

Lorraine E. Leslie.

Caleb Torrice, Vice-Chairman

John B. McIlhinney, Supervisor