

Wilmington, Delaware  
June 2, 2016

#4223

**Sponsors:**

**Council  
Members  
Shabazz  
Dorsey Walker**

**WHEREAS**, with the growing range of educational and professional resources available on television and online, more households – in Wilmington and beyond – are becoming increasingly reliant on cable and Internet services; and

**WHEREAS**, it is common for those who subscribe to such services to pay a monthly rental fee for the provider’s equipment – equipment which is often required to receive particular services; and

**WHEREAS**, rental fees for items such as a cable box or Internet router, can sometimes amount to \$10 or \$20 a month, meaning that over time a subscriber will likely pay the equivalent of the full cost of such equipment – without the right to retain or reuse that equipment with another provider; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission is presently considering new rules which would enable consumers to choose where they obtain set top boxes used to connect cable service to a television; and

**WHEREAS**, organizations like Common Cause have expressed strong support for the rule change which would essentially “unlock the box,” and provide consumers greater freedom and flexibility in where they obtain this equipment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wilmington City Council seeks to offer its support for this proposed FCC rule change, and to Common Cause for its efforts to raise awareness about this important issue.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON**, that the Council supports the new rules being considered by the Federal Communications Commission which would enable consumers to choose freely where they obtain set top boxes – a measure that would remove the effective monopoly that

the cable industry has over this equipment, and would likely reduce the significant costs that are being paid by cable subscribers.

Passed by City Council,

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Approved as to form this \_\_\_\_\_  
day of May, 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant City Solicitor