

Virtual Cable Video and Telecommunications Commission Meeting Minutes
Meeting of October 23, 2020 at Noon

Welcome and Introduction

Vice Chair Oliver called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

Roll Call

Chair Shabazz asked the commissioners to introduce themselves.

Present: Vice Chair: Zanthia Oliver (Council Member) Commissioners: Linda Gray (Council Member), Kelly Williams (Public Works Commissioner), Marchelle Basnight (Chief of Staff, City Council), Terence Williams (City Auditor), John Rago (Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Communications, Office of Mayor), Rysheema Dixon (Council Member)

Staff: Akira Grenardo (City Council Staff)

Absent: Hanifa Shabazz (Council President),

Minutes from CVT Meeting of June 5th, 2020

Vice Chair Oliver requested a motion to accept the minutes from the June 5th, 2020 meeting.

Commissioner Gray made the motion and Commissioner Marchelle Basnight seconded it.

Vice Chair Oliver called for a vote and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

New Business

Vice Chair Oliver moved on to the first order of New Business, which was a presentation by WITN to present their update regarding the Station's Programming.

Paul Colsey, Station Manager provided an update on the adjustment of programming during Covid-19. He commended the station and Deputy Station Manager on finding ways to engage the public during the Council and Committee meetings. He also shared that the NCC Council are still utilizing WITN for the streaming of their Council meetings, and when we return to Chambers, all equipment is ready to go for both City Council and NCC Council. WITN22 had introduced a new daily talk show, Up with India. Which airs daily, sharing new local stories of different people and organizations that are doing great things in Wilmington. In Focus, which was a show that aired in the studio, but has now moved to online. 22 News has been covering the Governors Covid-19 Updates every Tuesday, covering live local events, and press coverage. Wendell Raulston, Deputy Station Manager, shared an update on the progress of the WITN

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Studio B renovations. The goal is to complete the renovations by the end of the year, but that will depend on the HVAC renovations. Commissioner Rago asked if the space will be used for a variety of shows and programs. Wendell clarified that they will be using the new space for different shows and programs and how the view of Freedom Plaza is such a plus. Wendell shared the increase of Social Media numbers for Facebook, Instagram and Youtube. Youtube has grown exponentially during this time of Covid-19, as meetings are being streamed virtually. Commissioner Rago asked if we know what is driving the increase in followers. Is there a certain story or topic that attracts more viewers? Wendell will gather the information and get back to the Commissioners. Paul shared that new content is posted daily, which helps drive traffic to the sites. Commissioner Gray asked if there was any idea of when we will be back in Chambers. Commissioner Basnight reminded everyone that the building is still closed to the public and that is what will determine when we will be able to hold meetings in Chambers. Commissioner Rago expressed that he did not believe we will be back in the building until Spring of 2021, once it is safe to be near one another. Wendell reminded the commission that WITN also streamed the Clifford Brown Jazz Festival, to hold the event virtually.

Vice Chair Oliver moved to the next item on the agenda, which was an update report from Red Clay Consolidated School District Regarding the Operations of the Educational Access Channel. Robert Markopoulos, Executive Producer presented on all the new programming on EdTV and shared updates regarding planning to reopen with the hybrid model. Trying to get prepared for multiple Back-To-School nights for schools. Some shows have been able to continue, and they are trying to find ways to keep students engaged. Collaborating with YMCA to create videos for activities and healthy workouts to keep kids active. An old bus was used to create the Education Station that goes to different schools, it creates a safe space for students and teachers to engage. Filming has begun on this bus and will air once complete. The students and teachers have a space in the bus where they can express themselves and share what is on their minds. A compilation of videos was shown of some of the videos made in the bus, and how EdTV plans to expand on this concept. See attached report provided by EdTV. Vice Chair Oliver expressed how proud she is of all the work and the videos that come out. Commissioner Rago suggested that the channel EdTV is on the various networks be shown and visible for the public to see.

Vice Chair Oliver moved onto the final order of business the Summary Update from DETV Foundation, Inc.- the City's Third-Party Operator (TPO) for Public Access/Leased Access. Ivan Thomas, Owner, presented on the updates and programming for DETV, Channel 28. See attached report provided by DETV. During Covid-19, DeTV has adjusted to the new virtual world, by streaming and helping other organizations throughout the State get information out to the community. DeTV videos have been streamed across 10 different platforms throughout the state and county. DeTV is working on a cooking show, and Bathroom, Kitchens and Tiles donated \$57,000 kitchen for their set. Commissioner Gray asked who will be doing the cooking, and what will the focus. Ivan explained it will be a cooking network, the Culinary Producer will be Chef Dana Hubert. The goal is for a mix of different styles of cooking, Spanish, Italian, and other genres of cooking. Vice Chair Oliver asked how the church shows are coming on Sundays?

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Ivan explained that the Senior shows are still going forward. Every day during a block of time designated to Classic television shows during the week for seniors. Commissioner Rago asked if Ivan can speak on the Morning Show with Jea Street and Nadja Nicole. Good Morning Wilmington airs every Monday at 10am, to speak on things and people in and around Wilmington. All videos are on the DeTv Youtube page. Ivan also shared that DeTv is offering 3 free slots for Community Organizations to share updates for the community.

Vice Chair Oliver moved on to the next item on the agenda which was an update on the FCC Order. Taylor West, from the City's Law Department was present to speak on this item. Taylor shared the history of the FCC Order and the City's options and actions regarding petitioning the US Court of Appeals. Pending a ruling on our appeal the order is effective. We are currently underway in the litigation for this appeal in the 6th Circuit Court. Commissioner Gray asked what is the result of us winning or losing the appeal? What effect will it have on the City of Wilmington. Taylor suggested that she will obtain a summary from our Council and have that provided to the Commission. Commissioner Rago commented that the FCC is imposing on Cable Franchising and eat away at the local government authority over Cable franchises and our support of them. Vice Chair Oliver stated the Commission will be looking forward to receiving the summary on the FCC order and where it stands now.

Upon a motion from Commissioner Rago to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by Commissioner Dixon. The vote was unanimous.
The meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.

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