Public Hearing
CITY OF AUSTIN
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 43
AGENDA DATE: Thu 08/26/2004
PAGE: 1 of 1

SUBJECT: Set a public hearing regarding the adoption of an ordinance that establishes cable rates for basic tier, equipment and installation services offered under the cable franchise held by Time Warner Entertainment/Advance-Newhouse Partnership (Time Warner Cable). (Suggested date and time: September 2, 2004 at 6:00 pm., Lower Colorado River Authority, Hancock Building)

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

FISCAL NOTE: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

REQUESTING DEPARTMENT: Financial and Administrative Services - Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs

DIRECTOR'S AUTHORIZATION: Vickie Schubert

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Rondella Hawkins, TARA

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: N/A

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: To be reviewed by Council Committee for Telecommunications Infrastructure on August 25, 2004.

The City of Austin is certified by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to regulate the rates charged by a cable franchise holder for basic cable services, equipment, (e.g. converter boxes, cable access cards, etc.) and installation services until and unless the FCC determines that "effective competition" to cable services exists in the city. Although Time Warner filed a petition with the FCC to declare Austin subject to "effective competition" in May 2001, the FCC has not yet ruled on the merits of that claim.

Article 11, Section 6 of the City Charter requires the Council to conduct a public hearing before considering an ordinance that regulating the rates, charges and fares of a franchise holder. This item sets the public hearing for September 2, 2004, at 6:00 p.m.