

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the CBS television network and Time Warner Cable are deadlocked in a dispute over re-transmission consent fees, leaving over three million cable subscribers nationwide without coverage; and

WHEREAS, besides Los Angeles, where KCBS-TV and KCAL-TV Channel 9 are dark, CBS-owned stations in New York and Dallas also are no longer being carried by Time Warner Cable systems there and Time Warner Cable has also blacked out the CBS-owned pay cable channel Showtime; and

WHEREAS, although such financial disputes are common in the industry, they are usually resolved without subscribers losing channels; and

WHEREAS, the majority of homes now get their television content from a cable, satellite or telephone company, which charge to receive those signals and the current dispute has left many subscribers without access and coverage; and

WHEREAS, the negative impact on consumers is so great that cities such as New York are considering asking the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to intervene in the dispute; and in Los Angeles this dispute is affecting approximately 80% of the City's cable TV subscribers; and

WHEREAS, more than one million Time Warner Cable subscribers in the Los Angeles area have lost access to KCBS-TV Channel 2 and such hit series as "Under the Dome," as well as local news and sports, including Dodger games, on KCAL-TV Channel 9; and

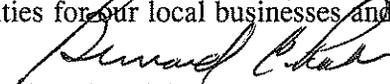
WHEREAS, Time Warner Cable provides service to more than a third of homes in the Los Angeles region and the current dispute has resulted in severe cuts in the numbers of viewers for KCBS-TV Channel 2, especially in its 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. newscasts where just last week the 5 p.m. news averaged 73,000 viewers, a drop of 33% from the previous week and the 11 p.m. news averaged 119,000 viewers for the same period, down 25%; and

WHEREAS, the blackout is also coming at a bad time for local advertisers that are promoting back-to-school retail sales and end-of-model-year car clearance sales; and

WHEREAS, Senator Edward Markey (D-Mass.) has called on the FCC to intervene in the CBS - Time Warner Cable dispute, and Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (D-Calif.), a member of the House Communications and Technology Subcommittee has urged Time Warner Cable and CBS to reach a resolution quickly; and

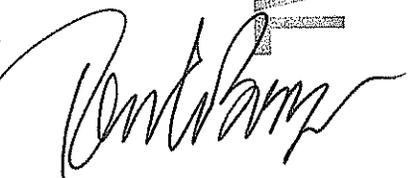
WHEREAS, Senator Markey is specifically requesting that the FCC take action to bring the parties together so negotiations can be concluded in an equitable and expeditious manner and that carriage is restored by the parties at the earliest possible time so that consumers are not long caught in the middle;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013-2014 Federal Legislative Program support for legislation and/or administrative action to have the Federal Communication Commission intervene in and bring to successful resolution the current dispute between CBS and Time Warner Cable which has left millions nationwide and many in Los Angeles without important television coverage of news and sports programming, as well as advertising opportunities for our local businesses and economy.

PRESENTED BY: 
BERNARD C. PARKS
Councilman, 8th District


AUG 13 2013
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SECONDED BY: 
NURY MARTINEZ
Councilwoman, 6th District



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