



Joint Statement from City Council President and Council Cable & Telecommunications Committee Chair Regarding Charter Communications' Rejection of Cox Sports Television's Latest Offer

Statement

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[New Orleans City Council](#)

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New Orleans, LA - February 20, 2008 - Today, City Council President Arnie Fielkow and Council Cable & Telecommunications Committee Chair Councilman James Carter issued the following joint statement regarding Charter Communications' rejection of the offer made by Cox Sports Television yesterday:

"Yesterday in the best interest of the public, Cox Sports Television (CST) put forth two options to Charter Communications. Today, we are extremely disappointed to learn of Charter Communications' refusal to accept the latest good faith offer made by CST yesterday.

Charter's refusal to accept this latest offer is another blow to not only Charter's North Shore and other Louisiana customers who are unable to watch the Hornets on television, but to the recovery of the entire New Orleans region. The Hornets are a vital asset to this City and our region, and it is truly unconscionable that many of their fans on the North Shore and elsewhere in the state of Louisiana are blocked from watching them on television by Charter. It is critical, especially given the recent agreement between the Hornets and the State of Louisiana establishing attendance thresholds, that fans be able to view Hornets games on television and witness not only the outstanding on-court product but also the promotional and entertainment benefits being provided by the Hornets franchise. Television is essential for the Hornets to reach the attendance numbers required in the current agreement between the Hornets and the State of Louisiana if we, as a community, are to avoid having the franchise potentially renegotiate or, worst case, exit the market next year.



We will continue to support our St. Tammany colleagues in their efforts to work with Charter to ensure the broadcast of Hornets basketball games on the North Shore and elsewhere in the State of Louisiana. Additionally, we remain hopeful, even at this late hour, that Charter will come to the table and reach an agreement with CST. Further, we will continue to support CST, the Hornets and the NBA's efforts to also pursue satellite coverage for Hornets games."

New Orleans City Council

The New Orleans City Council is the legislative branch of New Orleans City government. The Council considers and enacts all local laws that govern the City of New Orleans. The Council also approves the operating and capital budgets for the City, as recommended by the mayor, and continually monitors revenues and expenditures for local government operations. The City Council is also the regulatory body for public utilities. It also reviews and has final say on many land use and zoning matters, as well as considers major economic development projects for the City. As a Board of Review for Orleans Parish, the Council examines appeals of property tax assessments for real estate taxes, and certifies tax rolls to the Louisiana Tax Commission. Other responsibilities of the Council include overseeing the operation of the public access television in Orleans Parish.

The City Council is comprised of five districts and two councilmembers-at-large. Council President and Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow; Council Vice-President and Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson; District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura; District "B" Councilmember Stacy S. Head; District "C" Councilmember James Carter; District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell; and District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.