



New Orleans
City Council

City Council's Efforts Yield New Cox-DISH Network Agreement For Broadcast of New Orleans Hornets Games

News Release

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New Orleans, LA - March 10, 2008 - Today on the steps of City Hall, Council President Arnie Fielkow and District "C" Councilmember James Carter, along with representatives from St. Tammany Parish Council, Cox Sports Television (CST) and the New Orleans Hornets, announced the outcome of their persistent collaborative efforts to resolve the Hornets, North Shore and Gulf Coast broadcast dispute.

Cox Sports Television has signed a broadcast deal with DISH Network to carry CST broadcasts of Hornets basketball games on the North Shore as well as the Gulfport/Diamondhead market in Mississippi. The agreement will apply to many areas where Charter is offered and this will be the first time that the Gulfport/Diamondhead market will receive broadcasts of the Hornets games - ultimately providing wider regional access to Hornets game broadcasts.

The agreement between CST and DISH Network is the direct result of persistent efforts throughout the past few months by the New Orleans City Council, the St. Tammany Parish Council, CST and the Hornets to resolve the franchise's broadcast dispute. This deal represents a victory for the City of New Orleans, the North Shore, the Hornets and the team's fans across the region.

Council President Fielkow, in his capacity as the Chair of the Special Projects Development & Economic Development Committee, and District "C" Councilmember Carter, in his capacity as the Chair of the Cable & Telecommunications Committee, have worked determinedly with representatives from the St. Tammany Parish Council, other parishes and broadcast companies to ensure that residents on the North Shore and elsewhere have the opportunity to watch Hornets basketball games.

Councilmember Fielkow said, "I am thrilled that an agreement has been reached between Cox Sports Television (CST) and DISH Network to carry broadcasts of Hornets games across the New Orleans region. Finally, North Shore residents will be able to watch their team like their neighbors in New Orleans. The new addition of broadcasts to the Gulfport area of Mississippi further ensures that the New Orleans Hornets can continue their already great success growing their fan base. The Hornets are a key economic and cultural asset to New Orleans, and I commend CST and DISH Network for this agreement. I also hope this satellite agreement will encourage Charter to quickly reach their own deal with CST."

Councilmember Carter said, "I applaud Cox Communications for working so diligently to make the Hornets games available to citizens in the surrounding areas who are eager to support the team."

The City Council has been working to resolve this issue since January, when they passed a resolution requesting that the Special Development Projects & Economic Development and the Cable & Telecommunications Committees work with the St. Tammany Parish Council, representatives from the New Orleans Hornets, Cox Communications and Charter Communications to return broadcasts of New Orleans Hornets basketball games to the North Shore. The Council remains hopeful that Charter will reach an agreement with CST in the near future.

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.