

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION/INFORMATION SYSTEMS
(PUBLIC HEARING)**

May 12, 2010

5:30 PM

Chairman Lopez called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Lopez, Osborne, Corriveau

Absent: Aldermen DeVries, O'Neil

Chairman Lopez stated Alderman O'Neil is out of town. He's in Rhode Island, I believe. Alderman DeVries, also Senator DeVries, is at the Senate. She might arrive later if they get their business done there. Whatever is said here tonight will be typed up and given to the Committee at a future date.

Chairman Lopez advised the purpose of this public hearing is to hear those wishing to provide public comments, recommendations and/or written documentation pertaining to the restructuring of Manchester's PEG Access stations, MCTV and MCAM. There are some rules I'd like to put down. I'm not going limit presentations to three minutes as we do at the regular Board meeting, but I would go with three to five minutes. If I think there is repetition, I will ask you to try to get to your point. I know a lot of us have received tons of documentation and have the contracts we have had with MCAM and MCTV, so I'm asking you to get to your point as soon as possible as to how you see the future of MCTV and MCAM. I'm also going to allow a clarification from the Aldermen if there is a question or some needs a clarification. We are not going to get into a debate. We're not going to get into answering questions at this stage of the game. We are here to get input from the public, and I wish everybody would honor that as we move forward.

Norman Moody, 146 Walker Street, stated:

I have been a producer at MCAM and MCTV for ten years, and I'd like to comment on how MCAM has grown. I have a live call-in show from 10:30 to noon every Wednesday and Friday. We get a lot of call-ins. I do psychic

meetings over the phone and I also plan charity events to raise money for MCAM. My concern is that if we have to move to the Chase building, which is very small, are we going to lose the right to have a call-in show? This is very important because we get a lot of call-ins. Are we going lose our right to have freedom of speech or are we going to be governed by whoever runs MCTV? I feel that MCAM offers a wide opportunity to other people who wouldn't dare to speak on TV and gives them an opportunity to be who they are, if they have divergent ways of thinking, religion or whatever. And I notice a lot of people do not appreciate my show because I do psychic readings. I have seen MCAM grow. We have a lot of space there where we can do a lot of charity events, where we can help the community to grow, to make Manchester's TV stations say we are number one. I believe this in my heart that we are number one. I think it's important that we keep MCAM going so that everybody has a right to have their own TV show without worrying about what is going to happen. The live call-in shows...I have two sponsors that pay for me to be on the call-in show, and my concern would be what would happen to the sponsors that we get who do sponsor our shows. Do we have to give back to the sponsors that sponsor us? We raise a lot of our own money. Every one of us who have a show at MCAM, every producer and the staff that's there, they are more than willing to help us make sure that the shows are going on the way they are supposed to be. They make sure we are on time and we all work together, and the producers all get along very well. There is a lot of controversy, which I think is great because I think controversy makes a show go well. I can't say enough about MCAM or MCTV. If we have to combine, let's put it where it is now because there is a lot more room. There is a better conference facility there. The people who go to MCTV have a lot of parking problems. I honestly think we need to work in harmony. We need to get along, whether you are MCTV or MCAM, whether you are a producer or not, whether you are educational or whatever. We all need to work together and get this as a whole and make the communication from the TV public access the way it should be, all uniting, all working together. And let's make Manchester have a proud station for all of us to work together on.

Mr. Real Pinard, 294 Brennan Street, stated:

I almost feel at home here, seeing all you people. I kind of miss sitting here, but I'm here on a mission and I won't take much of your time. I will make this very quick. I support MCTV's proposal. I've done shows in the past years on both channels. Does the City of Manchester really need two TV stations? These are the questions that you, the people, have to decide on. I decided on some of these questions when I was sitting on the Board. I hope that this merger comes peacefully, and in the long run, I hope this does not affect the taxpayers of our Queen City because the economy is still not there, money is very tight. I feel that this is one of the key things. I'm not opposed to what's going on if it has to. MCTV is run by the taxpayers of the City of Manchester and Comcast. MCAM, I

just heard Mr. Moody say that they sell ads and derive money. That is the situation there. The other one, MCTV, is owned by the City. MCAM has to pay rent. How is that going to work? Nobody has come up with any solution yet. The taxpayers of the Queen City should know what is going on. Right now I feel that we are under a cloud. You have until June 30th to decide on what direction to go. You have a director of MCTV who has been in the school system for 36 years. Is it fair? I leave that open. Joe Lahr does a nice job on his channel. Again, these are the questions that have been bothering me. Who is going to pay for all of this in the long run besides Comcast? Thank you and God bless American, as I end my shows all the time.

Robesteur St. Felix, 196 River Road, stated:

I'm a producer at MCAM. I would just like to say that because of MCAM I've been able to put a lot of my ideas out and actually have a chance to grow, because as far as communication is concerned, there are radio stations everywhere controlled by people with a lot of money. The public here has a chance to express their feelings and emotions, both on MCTV and MCAM. What the guy prior to me was saying is true. Two buildings in this tough time is tough, but at the same time can we exist in one building? MCTV is very small. MCAM has a big facility. There is a lot that can be done there. To take a bigger place to a smaller place doesn't make sense to me, but that's just me. I figure since MCAM is running already, they have ways of coming up with some of their own money. Maybe I should just let them ride, do what they can, and cover the rest that they can't cover. Leave MCTV where they are and doing what they are doing. If Comcast is picking up the bill, who are we to say, stop paying. They pay for it. Let the people have what they want. That's the only thing left to do. You would be surprised the places I go and people say, 'I saw you on MCTV; I saw you on MCAM'. That means the city is watching. They are watching. If they didn't want it, they wouldn't watch it. This is something that the community needs. Kids coming up, they have aspirations. They want to do something when they grow up, and some of them don't have a chance to go to a big TV station or at least put their ideas out. I've seen school plays. You should see the looks on the kids' faces when they see themselves there. I don't know what you guys are going to do, but I know shutting down anything is not a solution. The wisest thing is to come up with ways to make more money. That's all I've got to say.

Ginger Ferrer, 521 Pine Street, stated:

I am a producer at MCAM. I began at MCTV. I got to know a person I respect so highly I can't find the right words to even describe it. Respect is something that is very hard to come by. Joe Lahr inspires people to do the right thing. He respects the constitutional right of all citizens to be heard. He inspires people to volunteer. He doesn't abuse, he doesn't bully, he doesn't intimidate, he doesn't put a fear factor into his operational procedures. When people walk into MCAM there is a

sense of freedom that I think would die if that was not taken into consideration, his contribution to the viability of the constitutional right of every citizen to be heard and to be respected because of the constitution that so many of us hold in high reverence and very dear. I don't have any problem with merging with anybody who is positive in their mindset, but there is a dark cloud that looms over these situations because of monies that were not spent with permission to make another location a beautiful place, but a very small beautiful place. It could not hold the kind of programming and visitors that MCAM has. We have political candidates who have come and gone. Dennis Kucinich, who contributed the constitution of the United States and of New Hampshire with Thomas Jefferson on the left hand side, is something that inspires me constantly. I think some of that would really be lost if that was not taken into consideration, as well as the financial factor. Comcast supports MCAM and the sponsors and the people who donate or raise money support MCAM, not the taxpayers of this city. I really hope you take that into consideration because a valued human being who practices ethical conduct instead of misconduct has to have some true value in this situation regarding closing MCAM.

Alan Kaprielian, 19 Elise Drive, Merrimack, stated:

I have been a resident of New Hampshire since 1983. I was the chief meteorologist at WNDS in Derry. The station was sold on December 16, 2004 to WZMY TV. On December 8, 2009, My TV had an eight person layoff. I was one of the ones laid off. It was a sad day for not only me but also my family and friends and all my viewers. Something that I loved like my second home was taken away from me. One of the employees that was laid off knew someone on the MCAM board. She met him at a function. When I went to work on December 9th she said that maybe they could get me on MCAM. It was like somebody took a brick off my head. I know a lot of you might like to see me in Boston or on Channel 9, because I want to stay in New England because I am a native New Englander. I have the high pressure voice; it's an enthusiastic and sincere style, and that's why I was given the job in 1983. I started the station in Derry and I'd like to stay in the area. I know there are two sides, MCAM and MCTV, but I hope not just for my sake but for all of us in this room that if we merge, we merge, but I hope to stay in the area. I could go to the weather channel and leave all of you, but how do I know I won't be laid off there in a year and they don't pay me to move? Everybody knows me in this area. People love me and they want me to stay. The one main thing about MCAM is I'm not just on in Manchester. They are trying to get me on in Merrimack. I was on in January. They had problems, and we are going to be meeting with them very soon again at the high school. They weren't getting the weather every morning, so you'd see older weather on Friday that was done on Wednesday, but that is going to be rectified. The thing that I love about MCAM is I go there and I don't feel as stressed as I did in Derry.

Joe Lahr has never raised his voice to me; he has never yelled at me. If you've ever been at a TV station it can be very hectic. Go to Channel 9 or go to Channel 4. You've got the producer swearing at the news director. It can get real bitter. I don't see it at MCAM. I didn't see it much in Derry, but I don't see it at all where I am now. I hope your Board of Aldermen and Mayor can keep me because I want to tell everyone that it's hard to get a job in TV in meteorology. It's very competitive. In closing I just want to mention that we had some seniors down in April. As you know I was on Dancing with the Stars. I'd like to maybe do tours if MCAM stays open, maybe go back and speak in schools, things I was doing in Derry. We are trying to get sponsors so I can get paid there. I do have a mortgage and I love my home in Merrimack. My greatest wish is to not leave all of you and to stay in my home. That's my wish. If MCAM closes, would MCTV take me? I don't know. Where would I go if they don't. You may not see me again. I have some opportunities other than TV but I love TV. I know all of you mimic my style but it's a sincere style, and I've touched a lot of young people and even senior citizens, so I hope the Board of Aldermen and Mayor can work with both stations and I hope we can work out a solution so I can keep my house and stay in New Hampshire. It would be a big plus for my family too because it has been tough on them. It happened right before the holidays. I wish you all the best and thank you very much.

Jim Krolkowski, 134 Cody Street, stated:

I have been a teacher here in the Manchester school system for 34 years. I'm currently retired. I'm here to talk about MCTV, my relationships with it. More important is the niche that MCTV has in education. We are talking about a programming station that is award-winning. It is well-run. It is financially solvent, and now has a state of the art updated studio. I know this Committee asked for proposals as to what to do here. I have a unique one. I feel very strongly that the Board of School Committee may a grievous error in divesting itself of MCTV and passing it on to the City. I feel that error can be rectified. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen are sort of like an upper chamber in the City and the School Department is sort of a lower chamber. Obviously the main check here is the budget. I think today the Aldermen and Mayor have an opportunity to right a very big wrong. MCTV has tremendous educational value. In the educational field we call this embodiment. It's a great example of a resource where students can put their knowledge to direct use. It offers an immediate hands-on learning tool. You really don't get this in the classroom. It takes a very creative teacher to provide this for kids and we are very, very fortunate to have this for our students here. Unfortunately the School Board did not see the value in this. I look across the State to Exeter and a great role model school, Phillips Exeter, has had a student-run radio station since 1964. It's the longest running secondary school radio station in the country right now. They have seen the value of this experiential tool, this embodiment of learning, and I wish that the School Board

had done the same thing here. As you all read in the paper this morning, some irate parents in Auburn got together and wanted to send their kids to Pinkerton and not Manchester public schools. A month ago we had a similar group in Hooksett. We have to really get the quality of education up in Manchester. There is no doubt about it. This is where I ask the Aldermen and the Mayor to make an altruistic decision here to basically take MCTV and give it back to the School Board. Also, the second thing is to resurrect an ancient New Hampshire tradition. It's called the instruction. Between 1760 and 1820 town meetings used to instruct their elected officials as to how they wanted them to do things or to vote in other bodies. I think you should not only send MCTV back to the School Board but instruct them to use this to improve the quality of education that is so desperately needed now in this city. You have to have a TV station here that is educational and governmental in focus, intellectual and unbiased in scope. I'm afraid that anything less than this will transform the station into something that is akin to AM talk radio, and that is not good education. Thank you very much.

Carolyn Dugan, 347 Sagamore Street, stated:

I am a retired educator of 31 years. During that period I taught video production and communication for 17 years. It seems to be that I'm here to speak to two related issues, and the solution seems pretty straightforward. The first issue is a question of maintaining a television station here in Manchester. Clearly the citizens of our city want and need to be informed. The public access station, MCAM, fills one niche. The essential educational and government stations at MCTV fill the need for balanced intellectual information. As a lay person not directly involved in the operation of these cablecasts, it seems logical that with the new state of the art facility at MCTV located in the hub of Manchester, a move by MCAM to the Elm Street location would just make sense. Furthermore, as Mr. Pinard pointed out earlier, it would be fiscally sound to move to the Chase building because the City owns that property, rather than an outlay of cash for rent. My second point speaks to the importance of continued student instruction. The class taught by Dr. Grace Sullivan trains students in the discipline of video production and is certainly worthwhile. Dr. Sullivan's expertise in the area of educational media technology enables her to be a superb mentor. At this time in our society too many people have access to tools of technology but are unaware of the responsibilities associated with this medium. The ethics of production, who here knows what that entails? What about the five principles of media literacy. I can assure you that Grace's students know those answers. Anyone can grab a camera and call himself or herself a producer, but to put together responsible, quality programming requires the leadership and guidance well-versed in this area. That person is Dr. Grace Sullivan and that venue is MCTV.

Al Heidenreich, 53 Lincoln Street, stated:

First of all, thank you for any extended minutes you may be able to allow us today. My wife won't give me more than three minutes when I come home a little late at night. I want to get as much of my message across as I can. I'd like to inform everybody that I am a lifelong resident of Manchester. Fortunately, nine or ten years ago I had the opportunity to become a producer. Any person in this city has the same opportunity. At that time the facilities were combined at Memorial High School at the Manchester School of Technology. It was a nightmare. For those who don't know PEG Access stands for Public, Educational, and Government, and all three venues were housed in one spot. You could not get in before 2:00. You had to be out at a certain time and you had about 100 people that wanted to be producers, and it just didn't work. So that was the reason for this flip in the first place, and I use the word 'flip' advisedly because it was very amicable at the time and none of us ever thought it would get down to this particular situation. Joe Lahr and the group moved into the facilities on the Merrimack River, 540 North Commercial Street, and MCTV stayed at the present facilities. It is no secret that that didn't work. It just couldn't work because of the time factor and the number of people that wanted to take part. Extensive work was done a long time ago at the facilities down on North Commercial Street in anticipation of maybe having to combine everything some day. I still can't believe there are people that misunderstand the funding. The funding came from an add-on to your tax if you are a cable user. I'm not going to go into all the details. Most of you do or should know it, but the money was earmarked for PEG access. Somewhere along the line, the decision was made that that money could go somewhere else. It is not taxpayers' money, and I'm still disappointed that that money was taken and placed somewhere else, but that is a whole different issue. The combined funding for the three stations and the two locations is less than the money that was used for the other stations together. You people have to work that out. I'm not going to quote figures, but the money was dropped down to a very small amount that could not possibly support both stations and this is why we have the situation that we do today. The facilities on 540 North Commercial Street are more than adequate in size to handle all of the needs of the three stations if they were put together. I think there is a misunderstanding among the public that maybe they want to get rid of certain stations. I don't believe that is true. It's combining them in a way that is feasible. A letter was sent to the Mayor and Aldermen which was the more feasible of the locations. I hope you had a chance to read it. Once again, I repeat, it's much like the Airport is. There is no tax money involved. It is money from cable fees. Joe Lahr should be given a lot of credit for what he has done down at that station because a lot of that stuff that is in there – lighting and things...I just won't go on with too much of it – because you should have received that letter. But he got donations in the thousands and thousands of dollars for that facility down there. It is large enough to host almost any kind of a function. We have had

live bands. In fact, I have a singing group of 15 or 20 people who have appeared several times and we draw an in-house audience of another 40 or 50 that couldn't happen at other venues. There are bandstands down there. There is adequate lighting. There are two or three separate rooms in there than can handle programs at the same time. It's not perfect but it certainly does the job. Parking is free, which does not happen with the facility on Elm Street. There are a lot of other things with the pros and cons that you people have to make the decision on. To me, speaking for myself as a producer, it's ideal down on the river where it is. There is all the parking that you need in the evening when the rest of the businesses are closed around there, and on the weekends. It's accessible almost any hour of the day or night as long as someone is there to let you in. All of these things don't happen at the other location. This is not a 'he said, she said' or whatever. It is what is best for everybody concerned. That is the point I hope we can get across so you make the right decisions when it comes down to any finality. I don't believe that anybody wants to do away with any one of the three stations or the three channels. I think it's the consolidation thing that you have to consider, which you are considering, and know that in your own heart you will make the right decision. I don't think it's going to affect education. These kids come down and they are allowed to come in and help and volunteer and work and learn just as much as they did at the other station. There were two or three other people who were going to come and speak tonight and they couldn't make it, so they said I could have their three minutes.

Chairman Lopez stated no. Wrap it up, Al.

Mr. Heidenreich stated all right. That is the end of it. Thank you very much. I appreciate you listening to me, and I want you to know we appreciate the effort that you guys are putting into this.

Benjamin Doucet, 769 Somerville Street, stated:

I am student here in the Manchester School District. I have taken video production the past two years at MST. This year I started an independent study at MCTV. The facilities there are great. Obviously, I've been to the old facilities at MST and that was very congested. The new facilities are awesome and the staff is pretty great. The opportunities you have there are different from the video production you have in school. You get a lot more real world experience. You get to go out in the field and interview your politicians. You get to be involved with a lot of different things you just don't get in school. I think those programs should stay and nothing should change at that facility. It's great the way it is. It's already paid for, at least the building itself. And, the opportunity there is just great. More kids should come down. We are actually getting a lot more people down. Like today, there were a lot more people than there has been in the past. It's actually starting to grow a lot better than it has. Well, I wasn't there the last

two years. I'm disappointed that I didn't take it last year. It's a great opportunity to get extra credit for school if you need it. That's about it. It's a great program.

Norma Champagne, 233 Tarrytown Road, stated:

I'm just going to say a few words about MCTV. When I started running for office, I started down at the Memorial School area, which was very congested. Since they've gone onto Elm Street, I find it not a problem down there, and I think the staff is wonderful. They treated me as if I was a real key person running for office, which sometimes I'm not really the most important person. I really believe we need MCTV. It educates the voters of the City of Manchester and I don't know much more about the other part, but I am very familiar with MCTV and I really, really believe that this should continue. The staff is outstanding. I want to thank you very much.

Glenn Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, stated:

Let's make something perfectly clear. We are still paying the mortgage on Chase building. It is going to be sold to a private developer once it is paid for. It will not be owned by the City forever. That's the agreement. So if we are not paying rent there now, we are going to. But we are paying rent. Five percent of the rent now goes to the management for upkeep of the building. The rest goes to help pay the mortgage. This is not a freebee. Alderman-at-large and Chairman Mike Lopez and Alderman Long in Ward 3 were very significant when this split came about. I remember that Alderman Lopez was very much involved in the split and how it got organized, and I don't think that we should be calling any of these stations a Taj Mahal. Ours is not and neither is MCTV's. What bothers me is that taxpayers' money was used to build MCTV's new facilities outside of Comcast. It was out of the Facilities repair account of our schools; it is supposed to repair our schools. There should be enough money in the Comcast money, \$1.4 million was received last year. You expended a lot less than that. So I don't understand why \$140,000 had to come out of our schools that are in great need of repair. Besides that point, I have here a list of program and if the Solicitor or the Clerk would come pass it to the Aldermen, these are the programs that exist at our station. Most of them don't get repeated more than twice because the channel is full. Education is very important at MCAM, and I'll tell you why. We seem to have this perception in this city that public schools and private schools are totally separate. Let's make something perfectly clear: they both pay property taxes. We at MCAM have producers who go to high school in our public schools. Their parents find them very safe there. We at MCAM teach the public and private school students. We are going to have a graduation on the 27th of May which is going to graduate a large class, about 27. So far this year we've had 68 students come to our facilities to learn how to use the facilities. It is not an unsafe facility. In fact, it is like a community center. You talk about a melting pot in this city of 98 nationalities in our schools. Where are you going to put 150 to 200 producers

to produce their weekly shows at the location where MCTV is now? There would be no green room. You can't have an audience because there is no room for it. We hold community services at that station. For example, at Christmas we had a huge party. It couldn't be held anywhere else. We also had a 503c non-profit. We can keep that non-profit as long as we provide a service. If the City takes it over, where is the service? I think the lawyers should be looking at that because you just can't make money and dish it out somewhere. You have to provide a service to be a non-profit. One of the last things I want to say is MCAM's hours start at 9:00 in the morning and there are some nights we don't get out of there till 11:00 or midnight. A lot of people are saying that it is a democratic station or a republican station. Let me make this clear. When Ray Buckley, the chairman of the Democratic Party was the chairman of our board, it was not a democratic station. Today Will Infantine is the chairman of the Republican Party and the chairman of our board, and it is not a republican station. Today is Wednesday night. From 6:00 to 7:00 we have an independent producer who produces a live, one-hour show. From 7:00 until 8:00 we have democratic registered voters who produce a live show. From 8:00 to 9:00 we have republicans who do that. But let me make it clear that within those hours, it doesn't matter if they are independent, democratic or republican producers; they accept opinions from everybody, pro and con. And the phones are off the hook on Wednesday night. It's the same thing as the Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to noon we have live programming daily. The phones are off the hook. Are we going to be able to do that at MCTV? Are we going to be able to have... for example, in 2008 in the primaries, we had a Presidential debate at MCAM. Eighty rooms were reserved at a hotel for them to stay overnight. That's economic. We now have a cooking show that pays us to do that cooking show. And Scorch, who does his show on Tuesday night, also pays us on a yearly basis. We won't be able to do that at MCTV because the hours won't be open for that. And the sports show is now going to Miami; Rochester, NY; and Norton, CA very shortly. Do you know what that means? It means economic prosperity. We are as a station producing shows that are good enough to hit the nation, big cities. That's good for Manchester. The last thing I want to say is that in 2009 when the Inauguration was held, MCAM was the only public access station out of over 1,700 in the country that got press credentials to go to Washington and bring back the inauguration to our people. It did not cost the City of Manchester a cent. We got \$400 from sponsors and we got our own places to stay and we paid for our own way. It's not supposed to be about money because it is not. Our PSNH electrical bill since January has dropped in half. We've laid off since last June half of the staff. So let's not say that we are spending money foolishly because we are not. It's not about money. The money is there. It's about where you want to spend it. I am totally in favor of having both MCTV and MCAM as separate entities, and I always have been, but I have to agree with most of you Aldermen, we must make it efficient and to do that we must put it in one building. But we must put it in a building that has room to grow. If you put us at

MCTV, within a year or a year and a half, you're going to have to find a bigger facility. There is no room to grow. You have to remember that public access isn't just education. It's education, government and public access. That's the law. I'm going to leave it in your hands to do the right thing for all of the City of Manchester, and make it clear that MCAM produces lots of educational programming in the morning hours. It is all around the community. And remember, at the community center we have Somalians, Nigerians, people from all over the world who live in this city and have programming at our station. That adds to our city. It's communication. It's actually a community center that comes together and serves the community where people have a right to say what they want to say, provide their own programming. I would rather have people provide a program than go out committing crimes. Isn't that what we are all about, trying to keep our city safe and keep our citizens busy doing something that's worthwhile? Thank you very much.

Alderman Roy asked may I clarify something that was just stated?

Chairman Lopez responded yes you may.

Alderman Roy stated it was just stated that the monies to renovate the facilities at MCTV came out School District funds, and that is incorrect. It came from the initial grant which was given to the School District by the City. Those monies came from the cable company. They were held in a separate account, the interest bearing account, and those monies came from that account. It didn't come from the School District's money that we allocate this year.

Chairman Lopez stated thank you very much for that clarification. I don't want the public to be misinformed.

Robert Santiago, 33 Schuyler Street, stated:

I am one of the newest board members of MCAM TV right now. I was asked to speak to you about the facility. Obviously we know it is a very big facility that will be able to house bigger and greater things and different shows that we have in the community. What I also wanted to talk about was the diversity of the station. By having so many different races we are exposing the opportunity for them to express the beauty and the great things that their cultures have that make us a great rainbow coalition in this beautiful city that we live in. I think that by moving the facility we would be limiting the amount of cultural shows that you would be able to have on MCAM TV and we would be cheating the City of Manchester and the students and the young people of the community of the beauty of the different races and their needs and wants, and how they partake in the City. I think MCAM by moving, or closing or slamming the doors on this group of people you're going to cheat yourselves of seeing some great things happening with the community,

with MCAM, allowing them and giving them the space to be able to use their creative juices to be able to make great educational shows and learn more about the culture and what they want to contribute to the community here. That's basically what I have to say here. Thank you.

Job Ombati, 814 Elm Street, stated:

I am a foreigner here, but I've been living in this city for the last seven years so I feel I am home. I produce a show called Today and Now every Friday at 7:00. On my show we discuss about education, health and politics and other issues. I am not a democrat or a republican. I am just a Kenyan who lives in America. MCAM station has given us a chance to participate the best way we can in the City. Last month I was talking about education in the Manchester School District, why our schools are doing poorly compared to other districts in the state. I am a teacher in the Manchester School District. I have talked about health and safety and security. I have invited police officers to come the station to educate the people about issues of security. So, the station plays a very important role, just like the former teachers spoke here about MCTV, it is very important for a city to have a station dedicated to education. The question is not to close any of these stations. The question is how do we make them run smoothly and how do we absorb the cost of maintaining them. As the other people have spoken, bringing these two stations together in a bigger facility, in one house, would make sense. So, look at that and see which facility is going to be able to accommodate all of this so that the students can have their programs without being disrupted and the other public people can have time to do their shows. We need this part. If we think Commercial Street is not big enough, or the other street is not big enough, it's okay. Find another neutral place which is big enough to take on the two stations. That would make sense. The other thing I was thinking...maybe I am the only person who has done this. I realize we have Comcast, which helps in the bill. I myself don't have Comcast in my house. Therefore I don't see my show. I go to a neighbor to see my show. What I did is I called Direct TV which I have in my house. I told them I live in Manchester and cannot see my own show that I produce. But Comcast has this show. Why can't you give us Channel 23 on your cable so I can see it? When I spoke with those people they said because I am an individual, it would be better if an Alderman or the Mayor talked with them so that the people of Manchester who have Direct TV can also have Channel 23 on that so they can also see. If you talk to this cable station, you will be able to get some services like you do from Comcast, so everybody is not left behind. Last week I was talking about education itself. If we think that MCTV needs a bigger space like Commercial Street, that is where we will move it, but it should be housed in a school setting. It could be housed at the Manchester School of Technology if it could stay there without being disruptive. But we need to think about keeping these two stations working efficiently because they are very important to the City of Manchester.

Cheryl Mitchell, 352 Lake Avenue, stated:

I am a lifelong resident of Manchester. I'm here to give you just a little insight on my organization which is called Eagle Eyes Community Organization, which is a non-profit. It has been up since Officer Briggs passed away. He did so in my yard. It was very, very tragic and our group started something positive because of what happened. But I'm not here to talk about that. I'm here to talk about MCAM. I was very grateful to MCAM this year. A month and a half before my Christmas party was to happen, I had no place to go. Our organization has been doing a Christmas party. We do it completely for free. We do a full turkey dinner. We do Toys for Tots, and we have lots of different giveaways and presents and things like that for the children and families of Manchester. Joe was absolutely wonderful and he had said, 'Sure, you can come down here'. We had approximately 200 to 250 families – kids, moms, dads, grandmothers, uncles, aunts, you name it. They went in they went out. We had five or six turkeys that we had cooked. Webster House was gracious enough to let us use their facility to cook the turkeys and then bring them down. Every single one of them was gone. We probably had another 50 people who couldn't be served because the turkeys were all gone. It is a wonderful place. It's a really big place. I was very fortunate to have a few friends who had suggested talking to Joe. We also just recently...our group is doing four by four murals. We call them revolving murals around Manchester. I don't know how many people have heard about them yet, but MCAM is offering us on May 17th to have an opening so that people can see these panels that are going to be revolving around Manchester and get to meet the artists. There are a couple in Hooksett. They will be doing so for about a year or a year in a half. Again, it's all free. This is all something that's volunteer work. We don't get a whole lot of money. I'm very grateful for MCAM and I hope that you do make the right decision. Again, I have heard everybody here as well. The consolidation, to me there is no question. MCAM should be where all of this is housed and everybody should get along. Everybody should be able to make this move in a very positive way. Thank you very much and have a good evening.

Mike Roche, 17 Helen Drive, Hooksett, stated:

I was a resident of Manchester for over 55 years. I still own a house and pay taxes, and I have for over 33 years now. I was going to be extremely brief this evening but seeing as you extended the time, I probably will not be because I find it difficult to be brief. What I was going to say originally was if you are looking to save money, which was your goal for the last year and a half, the budget that MCTV put together dated April 14th and followed up two days ago with a packet of 45 pages addresses that issue. What it does is it really...there is a big savings and it shows how we both can work together, MCTV and MCAM, under the same roof. You wanted proposals. I haven't seen anything from MCAM, nor have I seen or heard any proposals from the two boards that did away with our funding,

namely the Board of Mayor and Alderman and the Board of School Committee. The location at 1045 Elm Street is good for the taxpayers because of its cost and its efficiency. The non-partisan committee that Mayor Gatsas put together, that was one of their recommendations on page two, that because of the...that was the committee on Efficiencies and Consolidations chaired by Attorney Brad Cook. He was aware of both sites and he chose 1045 Elm Street for that reason. It's also for the students very safe on the main street or on the bus route if they are coming from the west side or Memorial High School. But that's all I was initially going to say. You do have the 45 pages that you received less than 48 hours ago, but while I was sitting here listening to other speakers, I jotted down 15 different numbers that mean something both to MCTV and MCAM because I'm a numbers person. This is not a prepared speech. The first is 70%. That is the number of both boards, the BMA and the Board of School Committee, that voted against our contracts who weren't originally there three years ago. That was the beginning of the roller coaster for both stations because on February 18th, Mayor Guinta stood up there and proposed a budget of \$400,000 that would cut both budgets by exactly 57%. That is the number that Mayor Guinta wanted to cut the budget, and 47% is the number that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen ended up cutting us two months later, May of last year. Fifteen percent is the number that MCTV gave back to the Aldermen on December 15th that represented \$87,350. Then, 2.31% is the figure that, for the fiscal year we are in, seven City departments had a negative budget. Seven departments represents 30% of the City. That is the average that they gave back, 2.31%. 2015 is the year our contract was supposed to expire. Next, \$7.10 represents what we pay per square foot for a City-owned building at 1045 Elm Street, and that compares to \$9.75 presently for MCAM on Commercial Street. The lease is up on October of next year. The figure of \$960,000 was forecasted by the Finance Director for FY 2011 that both stations would have gotten, had the contracts not been voted down by two boards. Forty percent represents the amount in the plan of MCAM that we can run both stations and return 40% to the taxpayers. Next, \$385,000 is the number in savings that we can run both stations; you subtract \$575,000 from \$960,000 which is the number you have in the proposal that we feel, with the present staff, we can run both stations comfortably from the same location on two different floors. Eight is the number of years we thought we had a contract in June of 2007. 1045 is the address that we feel is the most efficient and where both stations should be housed. On closing, this is not a number but a fact. I heard other speakers mention that MCTV is not cultural or they won't be able to...limited hours...That is totally false because if they are in the building by 11:00, if the people want to occupy according to the plan we have, they would have the third floor, and after 5:00 PM they could have the bigger studio on the fourth floor where normally MCTV would be 95% of the time. We don't film that often after 5:00 PM, but the producers on MCAM could be there around the clock if they wish to. That is their choice. The last thing I

have is ten letters. That's ten support letters for MCTV. Thank you very much for your time.

Samantha Farrell, 396 Smyth Road, stated:

I am a student in the Manchester School District. I'm here just to provide a point of view from a student that gets to participate at MCTV. I just had the opportunity of going there today, and really, having a hands on experience and learning about media and media arts... There are many students who have been there much longer than I have who have had the opportunity to learn with Dr. Grace Sullivan and the other staff members. While I was there and while the other students have been there, you get a different experience. It's not like it is in school. I go to public school; I have teachers; I have regular classes. It's not like school. You get a different experience. You have a hands-on opportunity to learn about, not only things you plan to take as a career, but things just to better your life experiences. It's a fabulous opportunity and it's not something that you get anywhere else. It's really a one of a kind experience. I've only been there a few times and I've only met the students that have participated there a very few times. It's a life changing experience. I can say that. It really is. Some of the people that have been there were telling us what they plan to do with their lives, and all of them involve media in some sort of way. It has changed their life paths in the way that they actually want to pursue this as a career. It's not just something that they do for school credit or just to pass high school. It's something they do because they love it. They want to be there. No one is forced to go. Everyone really wants to be there. I plan to do it this summer, and hopefully continue on to this fall. People that are there want to continue. They want to be there. I'm not here necessarily to give a proposal or to solve the issue that is currently being debated about. I'm just here to provide a point of view, to just give you my point of view on what's going on, so maybe you can see what it means, not only to me, but the students that have the opportunity to be there. Thank you very much.

Mary Heath, 76 Island Pond Road, stated:

I have lived in Manchester all of my life. I'm also a teacher. I worked in the Manchester school system for 23 years. I'm also the retired deputy commissioner for the New Hampshire Department of Education, and currently work at Southern New Hampshire University. I want to talk about a couple of things. First of all, I just want to share my disappointment with the Manchester School Board in the fact that they chose to give up MCTV. I think that at a point in time when school districts across the State are developing community access television networks for their educational programs, it just saddens me greatly that our School Board made that decision. I think that is something that I hope can be reconsidered. Secondly, I just want to talk about the importance of the extended learning opportunities that are afforded to our students with a certified educator at MCTV. I think that one of the things that...as part of our minimum standards for public education, it talks

about the importance of opportunities for students with real world learning, but also the importance of the connection with a certified classroom teacher. The importance of the ability to be able to identify the standards to which a student needs to work, and I think we've heard testimony tonight from students and others about the educational importance of MCTV. I also want to talk a little bit about the venue. I think the venue is important. It's accessible to all three of our high schools. That again makes learning opportunities available across our school district. In my former roll as deputy commissioner, I worried constantly about the Manchester School District. Every year I watched as the New England Common Assessment Program test scores came in and Manchester had at least five schools that always were on the very bottom of the list. This is my home city. We have good teachers. We have good people here and our children deserve the very best. We certainly deserve a community television station for our teachers and our students, and I hope that you will consider that in your deliberations. I know you are working very hard to make the best choices. I also know that many of the dollars that support community television come from our Comcast dollars, and I hope that you will work and think and deliberate, and keep in mind the children of the City of Manchester. I really and truly think that we need to make an effort to improve our schools and give them every single available opportunity so that in fact when the NECAP scores come out again, the City of Manchester schools will not be at the bottom of the list. I thank you for your attention.

Howard McCarthy, PO Box 5076, stated:

Good evening. It's been a while since I've been here. I've sort of been in transit but I just want to let you know that my post office box is 5076, Manchester, NH. I'm wearing a nice jacket here that somebody gave me. It says Memorial High School. I have to tell you that this was given to me by a nice person just the other day. It was very cold and they gave it to me. I've had some doings with Memorial High School and I thought it was very good, and I realized that a lot of people have told me it's a great high school. I did not graduate in 1992. It says 1992 on the jacket, but I graduated from Peabody High School in Massachusetts in 1945, so that's a while ago. Anyway, it's nice to see some of you people. I don't know if you remember me coming before the public participation nights, allowing me three minutes. Anyway, I haven't been doing that lately, but maybe some of you people thought I died and went to heaven, or maybe the other way. But no, I'm still around, doing my thing. I'm here to speak in favor of MCAM. There have been some great speakers here telling the real story better than I can, people like Glenn Ouellette back here, Al Heidenreich. Then again we have other personalities like Joe Kelly Levasseur, Joe Briggs, and Will Infantine. These people are very good watchdogs, as you know. You people do your job and when they disagree with you, they let you know, just the kind of people we should have here. A station like this offers the liberty to do that. MCAM offers a variety of shows - interesting, informative, educational, entertaining - a variety. I don't

know about you people, but I've watched your shows. I just want to say something that reminds me of the Hippocratic Oath. Do no harm. First of all, don't do any harm to Manchester Community television. After all, that's your channel. Without you people, the whole thing would collapse, wouldn't it? Anyway, the point is, do no harm. MCAM is a wonderful station. It offers all the things I just mentioned and people that do the show do their thing, whatever that might be. It could be religious, a religion type of show, or singing, or whatever. It gives a chance for those types of people to do something like that. I happened to have a show myself, and it's really something. Once in a while I'll go into a store or something and someone will say, 'I know you. I've seen you on television.' It's quite a different type of feeling than I've ever had, but I'm having fun. That's part of my life and it should be part of everybody's life to have some fun and learn things. Again, I probably have not said anything of real value, but I think you should keep MCAM going the way it is. Joe Lahr is a wonderful station manager. He only has three people. There is Brandon and Mike and Donna, and that's about it, and they run that station great. I just want to say thank you very much. By the way, I'll be doing a show tomorrow and they'll put that on television at 6:30 on Friday night. I call myself Howard McCarthy, the old lamplighter. I'm old now. It starts off...maybe you don't want to hear me, but I just have these last couple of words: He made the night a little brighter wherever he would go, the old lamplighter of long, long ago. His snowy hair was so much brighter under the old lamp glow, the old lamplighter of long, long ago. I'll be singing for you Friday night at 6:30 PM, and I'll be singing my heart out for you.

Nicholas Lavalley, 651 Pine Street #1, stated:

That's going to be a tough act to follow. I'm a member of the Alliance for Community Media, and also the New Hampshire Coalition for Community Media. I am the town of Merrimack's media services coordinator so I do manage the Merrimack community television channels and the facility that is located in Merrimack High School. I'm also a lifelong Manchester resident and cable subscriber. So I actually grew up as a teenager admiring the work of Grace Sullivan and what she has done to bring access to Manchester. As a professional I still admire her and Jason Cote, as well as Joe Lahr of MCAM for everything they've done for the City in bringing attention to community media. These two entities, MCAM and MCTV, both use franchise fees that we get from our cable bills. We as cable subscribers and you as the franchising authority have no say in how much Comcast is going to charge us for our cable bill. My cable bill is high. The one thing that makes it worthwhile aside from the Sox and HD would be my public education and government channels. In 2010 I strongly feel there is no trade more valuable in learning or doing than media production, and we heard that today from several teenagers and also senior citizens. I look around and I see solemn and sad faces. I don't quite understand that because all of us are preaching how valuable and how necessary community media and media as a whole is. So

this strange dividing line of MCTV and MCAM doesn't make too much sense to me. You've got older people, young people, different cultural backgrounds, that believe in this. We want this. You should be excited to be sitting next to each other, but instead there is a strange division. So I think what the City of Manchester is telling our Aldermen is that we want this and we want it properly funded. When it comes to the franchise fees, maybe it's time for the Mayor and Aldermen take a look at how much those franchise fees can be dedicated to community media, whether it MCAM or MCTV. What it should be is both. How you want to split that up, I don't know, but it really shouldn't be split in any way, shape or form. Manchester is a large enough city. I think we need to embrace community television, and we can satisfy all parties in this room. You just have to do what's right. Thank you very much.

Ryan Hayes, 143 Westwood Drive, stated:

I am the director and producer of PFGtv. For those of you who aren't familiar with the show, generally I classify it as a late night talk show with kind of an edge. Our show started with us taping on handheld cameras in local restaurants and using a shower curtain as a backdrop. Since two years ago when we moved to MCAM, our show has grown exponentially since then. We are in now in over six million homes across the country. We are in 80 cities and also London, England. We are now picked up on MYTV New England, covering all of New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, and MYTV New York, which goes as far south as Pennsylvania and as far north as Canada. All of this could not be possible without MCAM. We pay money to MCAM each month to tape our show. Because of the size of the facilities and the equipment we need to make our show professional and successful, we bring in an audience and guests from as far away as Los Angeles and Las Vegas. They fly into our airport, stay in Manchester hotels and eat in Manchester restaurants and shop in Manchester stores. We send our show out across the country and we talk about Manchester, New Hampshire. That's called economic development, and we take pride in our community and recognize the responsibility that we have to do our part to help the City. Due to the popularity of the show, we've recently started taking donations from the audience to go to different charities each month. The recent one is the Juvenile Diabetes foundation. Again, none of this would have been possible without the faculty and staff at MCAM. PFGtv is a business created in Manchester that we deliver across the country. It's our passion and our livelihood. If you take away the studio at MCAM we are not going to have the space at MCTV. I've heard a lot of people come up today and they have kind of a one-sided...they know MCAM or they know MCTV. I toured both studios. I work at MCAM each Tuesday night and tape our show, and we just don't have the space. So basically, if we lose the space at MCAM we lose our business and our livelihood. Thank you.

Will Infantine, 89 Windward Lane, stated:

I'm the chairman of the board of MCAM. I'm here tonight to talk about some of the specifics. I've been a producer of MCAM, even back when it was MCTV, for over ten years. I wasn't in favor of the split at the time. So it's no surprise that I am not opposed to any kind of consolidation. But I think there are a lot of details that no one is thinking about. It was asked of us to terminate our contract on June 30th of this year. That's 45 days from now. As of this point, people need to review that letter that I wrote that has conditions associated with it, conditions such as we have a long term lease that needs to be addressed. We have three equipment leases totally outstanding debt of about \$50,000 that was entered into in good faith that we would have a long term contract. We have liabilities. Those need to be addressed. We have employees. I've heard a lot about how the MCTV employees will be protected, but no one has talked about what is going on with MCAM employees. I would like to know and they would like to know. You have assets at MCAM. Those assets were purchased with the cable equity fund. If you review the contract, it states that those are your assets and if anything ever happens to MCAM, they are still your assets. Has anyone decided what they are going to do with them? Are they going to move them on June 30th? Has anyone reviewed the assets of MCTV and MCAM and decided which assets, if and when combined, will be utilized for what? I don't know that anyone has done any kind of comprehensive feasibility study without question. My board of directors advocates for our facility and their group advocates for their facility. That's not a surprise to anybody. All of these details need to be discussed before we go further. If not, I expect to have a new contract by June 30th. MCAM is a 501-c 3 organization, non-profit. As a result of that we are able to derive revenue. We derive that through sponsorships, though fundraisers and what you see that some people call advertising on our slates but we don't call it advertising. It has to be called sponsorship. We have a lot of sponsors. There are a lot of businesses in Manchester that like sponsoring MCAM. They like the publicity; they like helping out; they like what MCAM does. We have that ability to obtain that revenue and that helps us offset some of our costs. It was stated earlier that we have a rate of rent that is two dollars plus higher than as does MCTV. That is completely accurate. However, what was not discussed was that we can raise, and we have raised, anywhere between \$15,000 and \$40,000 in a given year through our sponsorships, which will offset that. You really need to look at all the details. You need to look at the pros and cons, the positives and negatives of MCTV facility. You also need to look at all the pros and cons, the positives and the negatives, of the MCAM facility before any decision can be made. We have 45 days. You can't flip a switch on June 30th and say it's going to happen. There is a lot of work to be done. If, as I've heard, there are employees of MCAM that will become employees of the City, from what I'm told, for Human Resources reasons, because Joe Lahr was a former employee of the City for the School District, how that person comes back, there are questions about that. I don't have the answers to

any of those. Our board has our hands in the air. Without question, our board has no problem with a consolidation. We do believe that keeping the two entities separate for liability reasons, for ability to obtain sponsorships and other revenue, would be an advantage. All of these questions need to be answered before we go much further. It was discussed about a proposal. The previous mayor, Frank Guinta put a committee together of joint School Board members and Aldermen. We did present a proposal. I have a copy of it here tonight if anyone would like it. I know the press was looking for it, as was the MCTV board, the last couple of days. So it's here for you to review, and I will hand it over to the City Clerk when we are done. We weren't aware that anyone was asking for another proposal for us. I think the only thing we've ever asked is to sit down with everybody involved - people from MCTV, people from the Aldermanic board - to find out what we can do to preserve both MCAM and MCTV. All three stations provide a very valuable asset to this city and we are a better city for it. There is a lot of bad blood. There are a lot of things that shouldn't be going on. It's time to put an end to it. It's time to create the facility once and for all, the way it should be, wherever it should be. Personally, I believe you should go with door number three. I don't think either facility is where it should be. As a taxpayer, we shouldn't be paying rent for public access or government education. Put it in a school; put it in a public building; do with it what you may, but we've spent a tremendous amount of money on two different facilities, and now we're going to mess it up and start again. And what happens if in a couple more years we have to mess it all up and start again. Keeping it in a public building that we own keeps it there for a long time and we don't have to do this. I think a lot of effort needs to be put into what's going to happen in the next 45 days. I've only heard from one Alderman about my opinions about what should be done with MCAM and MCTV. Unfortunately that's very disappointing to me as the chairman. I know most of you and I'm very easily accessible. I had a lot of other stuff but it's really not worth discussing at this point. Again, the MCAM board has no issue with consolidating the two stations. We'd like to do it correctly, where it helps the most people and satisfies the needs of the City. The MCAM board would be willing to meet with any of you to discuss these issues, but please understand that June 30th, a light switch does not turn off and solve the problems. Thank you.

Max Auger, 31 Mammoth Road, Hooksett, stated:

I came here to point out a few advantages and disadvantages, mainly advantages. I go to Central and I actually am participating in an Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) at MCTV. By going to Central, I am able to go to school and I can walk two or three blocks to MCTV and spend a day there learning about media and media arts. It's pretty awesome. I really don't want to see anything happen to the MCTV employees, Dr. Sullivan and the others. That would actually be very unfortunate for me. I'm actually a senior so I am graduating. We just passed off the torch to 18 juniors and sophomores who have just signed up to

participate in a summer ELO. I would really not like to see anything happened where they would not be able to participate in that.

Kathy Dunn, 465 Crestview Circle, stated:

I come here as a parent of three children in the Manchester School District, as well as an employee at Manchester Central High School. I'm the extended learning coordinator there and also the after school program coordinator. I have a daughter Devon at Central High School, and I come to ask that you please keep MCTV at its current location, 1045 Elm Street. I also ask that you please keep Dr. Grace Sullivan, Kathy Masso, Jason Cote, and Dan Kennedy in their current positions. They are phenomenal. I have had an opportunity to work with them this past year through the students at Central High School and they do an awesome job. The students of Manchester Central, and I know there are a few students from Memorial there as well, they just eat up every bit of information that they can at MCTV. Dr. Sullivan is a certified teacher which enables the students to earn credit through what they are doing at MCTV. I know that some people suggest that we can accomplish that at the Manchester School of Technology. It's really a whole different ballgame. MST is a great school, but at MCTV it's a real business. It's the real deal and these students have the chance to really learn in a real world setting. There have been nine students go through the ELO program from Central. Eight of them are graduating and going on to college. One of them will be returning as a senior next year. Today there are 18 students and others on a waiting list to go to MCTV this summer and intern. They too earn a credit. Some of the things that the students have been able to do at MCTV is they have been able to interview the Mayor. They have interviewed the Superintendent. This weekend they are participating in a film festival in Concord. These are things they would not be able to do at Central. Just the experience that these students have gained at MCTV has been phenomenal. I do hope that the students who are signed up to do their summer ELO's, which they are scheduled to start on June 18th, I do hope that they still have that opportunity because I know they are very excited about it. Again, having a certified teacher they are able to earn the credit. Without a certified teacher there it would make it very difficult. The location at 1045 Elm Street is really great for all three high schools, specifically Manchester Central, our kids can walk there. Today they had a field trip. They were able to walk. They don't have to worry about transportation because parking is tough downtown. My daughter is one of the students who is participating in the summer internship and I know they had a great time over there today and they learned a lot. Again, I ask that you please consider keeping MCTV at its current location and also to keep the staff at MCTV. Thank you.

Kathleen Kelley, 146 Salmon Street, stated:

I'm here this evening because my son Kevin is a junior at Manchester Central High School. He participates in the ELO program at MCTV. This opportunity he

has taken part in for the last four months is something that has made him grow more confident. He has become a more amazing person because of this experience at MCTV. For the last nine years I've been a member of the Manchester Board of School Committee and I like to say that I am an advocate for the students of the City of Manchester. Tonight I'm here advocating not only for the students of the City of Manchester but also for my son, so it's personal. Everybody who knows me knows I have a hard time talking about my son because I care so much about him. I've seen him and the confidence that has grown within him. He's one of those students who, in a lot of ways, the education system in the City of Manchester hasn't worked for him. But this opportunity...I've seen him grow more confident. He cares more about his other studies because he has this MCTV think. He's in front of the camera. This is a child that wouldn't get up in front of the class to do an oral presentation, but he will sit at a round table and have a discussion that is televised on MCTV and the whole city can watch it, and he can do that confidently. This opportunity is immensely important to me and it's important to him. It will open doors to him in the future that he probably wouldn't have gotten just by taking the regular courses that we offer through the City. I believe that the program at MCTV works really well at its current location down on Elm Street because there is public transportation. You can get there and you can get home. No matter where you live in the City, you can get down there and you can get back to your neighborhood. Public transportation is an important part of why that works and why that program is growing so fast. When we talk about the adult education over at MST and some of the reasons why that program doesn't have the enrollment, it's because it's not centrally located and people can't get to it. Because it is downtown, it offers them the opportunity to get there and get home. I know that there are 18 students that are enrolled for the summer. I've talked to quite a few of them because quite a few of them I think my son recruited because he loves it so much and his friends are all involved now. I'm just asking you tonight to please remember the students of the City of Manchester when you make your decision. We need a certified teacher there. I know that Grace Sullivan has done an amazing job with these students. She has been a great mentor to these students. I've never heard any student ever complain about the job that Grace Sullivan has done. They all respect her immensely, and I do too. Thank you for your time this evening, and please remember the students. Thank you.

Cheryl Roth, 594 Lake Avenue, stated:

I've been a public access producer for about 12 years. I started at MCTV and when MCTV and MCAM split, I really didn't want to take sides. I really didn't want to see that happen. But of course because they split, I went with MCAM because I'm not an educator and I'm not in government. I really have to say that Joe Lahr has done a tremendous job developing MCAM. The facilities there are tremendous, and when I listen to all the different sides of the issue that are going

on, to me what it boils down to is we need space to accommodate all, and the only place where there is that space to accommodate all is at the MCAM building. As much as I appreciate MCTV and Grace Sullivan and everything that is going on there, I really don't think that the space there can accommodate what MCAM does. I feel that it would be a great loss to the City if what MCAM does would have to be reduced because of going into a smaller space that won't accommodate us. When you look at all the different issues, when you consider that in order to run three public access, education, and government stations, there needs to be a huge facility and we have that capability at MCAM. We have the flexibility that it could be divided. It could be organized. Things could be moved around. Also, if MCTV were to move to the MCAM building, then you have the revenue, the cable money from MCTV to help with paying the rent at the MCAM building. Also, if you release that space that MCTV is in you could lease that space to someone else, bringing in revenue for the City. I really think when you look at all the issues, what it comes down to is we need a large enough facility to host all three stations. I hope that you will really consider MCAM and what is available there for the City. As you are making your decision, I love the students and I believe 100% in the students, but I think you should think about everyone in the City, not just the students. Thank you.

Chairman Lopez stated thank you. Just for clarification, we wouldn't be allowed to rent space at 1045 Elm Street. It's under development. Even though the City eventually will own it, the developer can buy it back, so at this present time we would not be able to lease space there to make revenue. I just wanted to clarify that so that you would understand.

Ms. Roth stated but the space could be leased to someone.

Chairman Lopez stated but the City would not get the money. That's the point I want to make to you.

Dottie Grover, 537 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, stated:

My involvement with PEG access television started back in 1982 on the school board in Londonderry and continued to the point where I am now employed by the town to run that. I am also a member of the National Alliance for Community Media and president of the New Hampshire Coalition for Community Media. Our purpose is to promote and support public education and government access. I wanted to be here tonight to make sure that you were considering the preservation of three things. It is not my place to tell you where it is best to put them, to combine them or keep them separate or how to fund them. I do hope that you listened carefully to your residents this evening and heard how important each of those channels is to them, and that you will take that under consideration and

make the best choice for your community. The New Hampshire Coalition is always available if you need any help in any way at all. Feel free to call.

Alderman Long stated thank you for your testimony. Does Londonderry have credit courses that they offer their students through PEG channels?

Ms. Grover responded we have two double labs that occur in the facility and they are taught by a certified teacher from the high school. Our facility is located right next to the high school so they can walk over.

Alderman Long asked and the funding for that is through what?

Ms. Grover responded for the facility it is all PEG access fees. The school district sets up and runs the classes and pays for the teacher. That's the only expense for them, the teacher.

Alderman Long asked so it's the school district that offers the credit courses?

Ms. Grover responded yes.

Alderman Long asked it's the school district and not the PEG station? You allow the school district to use your facility to allow that credit course.

Ms. Grover responded yes.

George Lambert, Litchfield Selectman, stated:

I am no longer a resident of Manchester. I haven't been for a number of years. I am a resident of Litchfield, which is down the street, and I am a selectman there and I have the opportunity to represent our cable committee. It's fascinating because I sit here and I watch this and I say you have three great channels, you have a lot of great content coming out of Manchester that a small community like ours can't produce ourselves. We take advantage of your content. It's available also on the web. We have a beautiful studio sitting in our building, but in the design planning and people rushing to do something really useful, we didn't put in the appropriate resources and we've never broadcast a thing out of it. We rushed to make a decision and we missed a few things. The one thing that I would encourage you to do while you are making your decisions is to make sure that you don't lose your content, you don't lose the enthusiasm of the people who are going to generate your content by saying we didn't look at the big picture. Take a look at your budgets; take a look at your funding; take a look at your strategy. Never give up infrastructure that you have because you want to save money, when it's going to cost you money later. Make sure that you understand your proposals in total, because saving money is great, but sooner or later you may find it's going to

cost you more because you didn't spend enough money up front to do the things you needed to do. As selectmen we look at it all of the time. We come up with great proposals. We have people telling us all of the time, 'Go do this. You can save money.' We looked for example last week at saying that we were going to close our town offices one day a week. The thing we didn't think about was the employee reaction in the room when we told them we were going to send them home an extra day each week. It saves money. The taxpayers are going to be excited, except we are going to have to find some other things to make up for the resources we lose. Our job, your job, people in government, is to make sure we make the right decisions, not the cheap decisions. Thank you for your time.

Chairman Lopez advises that all those wishing to speak have been heard. The testimony presented will be taken under advisement with reports to be made to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Osborne, duly seconded by Alderman Corriveau, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee