

**COVER SHEET – AGENDA ITEM #R2**

For Commission Meeting: January 23, 2017

“Contingency Request: 2017 TeleCommUnity Membership”

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Commission approve up to \$2,500 from FY 2016-17 Contingency for a membership in TeleCommUnity.

**Background**

The MHCRC and the City of Portland have traditionally split the \$5,000 annual cost of TeleCommUnity Membership, which advocates, provides information, and creates networking for members involved with national legislation and regulation about cable, telecommunications, broadband, municipal rights of way, community media, and digital equity.

As you may recall, both the MHCRC and the Office for Community Technology FY16-17 budgets were reduced and the TeleCommUnity membership was eliminated as part of a reduction package focused on advocacy resources. The tremendous changes forecast, which include a potential rewrite of all or parts of existing cable and telecommunication laws and regulations, makes it a prudent decision to reengage with TeleCommUnity to ensure the MHCRC and our member jurisdictions are informed about proposed changes that may affect local authority and resources related to the cable services franchises.

If approved, the City of Portland’s Office for Community Technology will fund the \$2,500 match for the membership.

Thus far, \$0 of the \$45,000 FY16-17 operations budget contingency has been allocated.

Prepared By: Ann Goldenberg  
January 18, 2017

