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3 RESOLUTION 2020-

5 **A resolution authorizing the City of Hyattsville to negotiate the renewal**
6 **of the Franchise Agreement with Verizon Maryland, Inc., and to join**
7 **Prince George's County and other municipalities in negotiating the**
8 **renewal of the Franchise Agreement with Verizon Maryland, Inc.**

0 **WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council have authority pursuant to Maryland Code, § 1–
1 708(c) of the Local Government Article to regulate cable television franchises within the City;
2 and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council have authority pursuant to Chapter A125 of the City
4 Code to regulate cable television franchises within the City; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the City previously entered into a Franchise Agreement with Verizon
6 Maryland, Inc., hereinafter referred to as “Verizon;” and

7 **WHEREAS**, the term of said Franchise Agreement ends in 2022; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the City received a letter from Verizon wherein Verizon invoked the formal
9 renewal provisions of § 626 of the 1984 Cable Communications Policy Act; and

0 **WHEREAS**, Verizon’s aforementioned letter also indicated Verizon’s desire to engage
1 in an informal process of negotiation; and

2 **WHEREAS**, the City is required to perform a needs assessment as part of any
3 renegotiation of a franchise agreement; and

4 **WHEREAS**, it is in the public interest that the City enter into franchise renewal
5 negotiations with Verizon; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the City has been invited to be part of a joint negotiation with Prince
7 George's County and other municipalities to negotiate the renewal of the Franchise Agreement
8 with Verizon; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the City participated in a similar joint negotiation with Prince George's
2 County and other municipalities when the Franchise Agreement with Verizon was first reached
3 and received the benefit of pooling its financial and other resources to reach an agreement that
4 was acceptable to the City; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council have determined that it is in the public interest to
6 join with Prince George's County and other municipalities in negotiating the new franchise
7 agreement in order to allow the City the benefit of pooling its financial and other resources to
8 perform the needs assessment and to negotiate the renewal of the Franchise Agreement with
9 Verizon.

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Hyattsville, Maryland, has
11 determined it is in the public interest to perform a needs assessment and to negotiate the renewal
12 of the Franchise Agreement with Verizon. The City of Hyattsville will therefore join with Prince
13 George's County and other municipalities in performing a needs assessment and in the
14 negotiation process. City staff is authorized to take those steps necessary to participating in the
15 negotiation process.

16 **INTRODUCED** by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland, at
17 a regular meeting on July ___, 2020, at which meeting copies were available to the public for
18 inspection, and at which time a public hearing took place.

19 **ADOPTED** by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland, at a
20 regular meeting on July ___, 2020, at which meeting copies were available to the public for
21 inspection, and at which time a public hearing took place.

APPROVED:

City of Hyattsville, Maryland:

Date

By: _____
Candace B. Hollingsworth
Mayor

ATTEST/WITNESS:

City of Hyattsville, Maryland:

Date

By: _____
Laura Reams
City Clerk