

ORDINANCE NO. 09-960 N.S.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES ADDING CHAPTER 5.50 TO TITLE 5 OF THE EL PASO DE ROBLES MUNICIPAL CODE, RELATING TO REGULATIONS FOR THE PROVISION OF VIDEO SERVICE BY STATE FRANCHISE HOLDERS

WHEREAS, local public entities within the state of California have traditionally had the authority to regulate, in accordance with federal, state, and local law, certain aspects of the provision of video services, including the authority to award franchises, within the boundaries of those local entities, and

WHEREAS, the California Legislature adopted the Digital Infrastructure and Video Competition Act of 2006, California Public Utilities Code sections 5800 et seq. (“DIVCA”), which became effective January 1, 2007, and

WHEREAS, DIVCA substantially changed California law by establishing a statewide franchising procedure for video service providers to be administered by the California Public Utilities Commission (“CPUC”), and

WHEREAS, DIVCA establishes that the CPUC is the sole authority to award statewide franchises for the provision of video services, which preempts local franchising authority, and

WHEREAS, DIVCA establishes limited authority of local entities over state franchise holders, and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso de Robles desires to exercise that authority and to facilitate the implementation of DIVCA by setting forth regulations for the provision of video service by state franchise holders within the City of El Paso de Robles, in accordance with the requirements set forth in DIVCA;

THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 5.50 is hereby added to Title 5 of the El Paso de Robles Municipal Code to read as follows:

Chapter 5.50. State Video Franchises

Sections:

- 5.50.010 Purpose and Application
- 5.50.020 State Video Franchise and PEG Fees
- 5.50.030 Audit Authority
- 5.50.040 Customer Service Penalties Under State Franchises

Section 5.50.010 Purpose and Application

This Chapter is designed to regulate video service providers holding state video franchises and operating within the City of El Paso de Robles.

Section 5.50.020 State Video Franchise and PEG Fees

(a) Any state video franchise holder operating within the boundaries of the City shall pay a fee to the City equal to five percent (5%) of the gross revenue of that state video franchise holder.

(b) Any state video franchise holder operating within the boundaries of the City shall also pay the City a fee equal to one percent (1%) of the gross revenue of that state video franchise holder, which fee shall be used by the City for any Public, Educational, and/or Governmental (PEG) purposes consistent with state and federal law.

(c) Any state franchisee that has held a locally issued franchise agreement shall, consistent with Public Utilities Code § 5870, continue to fully provide and support PEG channel facilities and institutional networks and to provide cable services to community buildings to the maximum extent permitted by law.

(d) Gross revenue, for the purposes of (a) and (b) above, shall have the definition set forth in California Public Utilities Code § 5860.

Section 5.50.030 Audit Authority

Not more than once annually, the City Manager or the Manager's designee may examine and perform an audit of the business records of a holder of a state video franchise to ensure compliance with Section 5.50.020.

Section 5.50.040 Customer Service Penalties Under State Video Franchises

(a) The holder of a state video franchise shall comply with all applicable state and federal customer service and protection standards pertaining to the provision of video service.

(b) The City Manager or the Manager's designee shall monitor the compliance of state video franchise holders with respect to state and federal customer service and protection standards. The City Manager or the Manager's designee will provide the state video franchise holder written notice of any material breaches of applicable customer service standards, and will allow the state video franchise holder 30 days from the receipt of the notice to remedy the specified material breach. Material breaches not remedied within the 30-day time period will be subject to the following penalties to be imposed by the City Manager or the Manager's designee:

(1) For the first occurrence of a violation, a fine of up to \$500.00 may be imposed for each day the violation remains in effect, not to exceed \$1,500.00 for each violation.

(2) For a second violation of the same nature within 12 months, a fine of up to \$1,000.00 may be imposed for each day the violation remains in effect, not to exceed \$3,000.00 for each violation.

(3) For a third or further violation of the same nature within 12 months, a fine of up to \$2,500.00 may be imposed for each day the violation remains in effect, not to exceed \$7,500.00 for each violation.

(c) A state video franchise holder may appeal a penalty assessed by the City Manager to the City Council within 60 days of the initial assessment. The City Council shall hear all evidence and relevant testimony and may uphold, modify or vacate the penalty. The City Council's decision on the imposition of a penalty shall be final.

SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY. If any action, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable.

SECTION 3. PUBLICATION. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published once within fifteen (15) days after its passage in a newspaper of general circulation, printed, published and circulated in the City in accordance with Section 36933 of the Government Code.

SECTION 4. INCONSISTENCY. To the extent that the terms or provisions of this Ordinance may be inconsistent or in conflict with the terms or conditions of any prior City ordinance(s), motion, resolution, rule, or regulation governing the same subject matter thereof, such inconsistent and conflicting provisions of prior ordinances, motions, resolutions, rules, and or regulations are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect thirty (30) days from and after the date of its adoption.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council held on September 15, 2009, and adopted as an ordinance of the City of El Paso de Robles at a regular meeting of the City Council held on October 6, 2009, by the following vote:

AYES: Gilman, Hamon, Steinbeck, Strong and Picanco

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Duane Picanco, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cathy David, Deputy City Clerk