

Monday, November 15, 2004



Atlanta City Council establishes Advisory Committee to recommend improvements to City policy regarding telecommunications issues

ATLANTA –The Atlanta City Council has established a **Telecommunications Policy and Advisory Committee** (TelePAC) to advise the Mayor and Council on the current status and opportunities to improve City policy regarding a variety of telecommunications issues.

Among those issues:

1. The operation and function of public, educational and government access channels;
2. The cable and telecommunications right-of-way franchise agreements;
3. The negotiation or renegotiation of any cable and/or telecommunications franchise agreements;
4. Advances in the field of telecommunications with potential City benefit;
5. Recommendation regarding the use and occupation of the public rights-of-way for installation of telecommunications facilities;
6. Recommendations regarding the deployment of new technologies within the City that would maximize the availability of telecommunications services.

Technological innovations are making a variety of new audio, video and data transfer technologies available at a rapid pace. Many existing and new telecommunications systems require the placement of facilities under, on and over city streets on both private and public structures to provide service to subscribers and users, said City Councilwoman Clair Muller, District 8.

Muller, vice chair of the City Utilities Committee, co-sponsored a resolution establishing the Advisory Committee along with City Utilities Chairman Howard Shook, District 7.

"The growing number of telecommunications suppliers seeking to locate these facilities in the streets of Atlanta has led to an increased burden on our physical infrastructure as well as an increased workload on various City agencies in evaluating the impact of the facilities," Muller said.

Shook added: "As a local government, the City of Atlanta should also ensure that it has access to adequate telecommunications services which can assist us in maintaining the public safety of citizens, public access to government and the efficient delivery of public information and services."

Members of the Telecommunications Policy and Advisory Committee include:

- John Craft (Chairman): Appointed by City Council Districts 9-12, Post 3 At-Large
- Helena Mitchell: Appointed by Mayor Shirley Franklin
- Hans Klein: Appointed by Mayor Shirley Franklin
- Beverly Molander: Appointed by Council Districts 5-8, Post 2 At-Large
- Joseph Bankoff: Appointed by the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce
- Earl Daniels: Appointed by the Atlanta Planning Advisory Board

- David Sjoquist: Appointed by the Atlanta Regional Commission

TelePAC will present a recommendation on its findings to the Mayor and City Council in the coming months.

For more information on TelePAC, contact Atlanta City Councilwoman Clair Muller at 404-330-6051.