

**ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

ACTION AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: June 2, 2009

**Action Agenda
Item No.** 4-r

SUBJECT: Resolution Recognizing The Peoples Channel for Ten Years of Community Service

DEPARTMENT: County Manager

PUBLIC HEARING: (Y/N)

ATTACHMENT(S):

Resolution

INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laura Blackmon, 245-2300

PURPOSE: To consider a resolution recognizing The Peoples Channel which is celebrating ten years of service to the Orange County community.

BACKGROUND: In 1995 a small group of concerned residents formed a non-profit organization to facilitate Public Access TV for Chapel Hill and surrounding areas. That organization was The Peoples Channel (TPC). The station opened its doors in the summer of 1998. On May 30, 2009 TPC will celebrate the completion of its 10th year with an event at TPC's facility at 300-AC South Elliott Rd, Chapel Hill, from 4:00-8:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public and will also be broadcast live on Channel 8 in Chapel Hill and Orange County. There will be local bands, activities for kids and adults, free local North Carolina Barbecue, and a dessert potluck.

For ten years TPC has been promoting the advancement of democratic ideals by ensuring community members have access to electronic media and by promoting effective communication through community uses of media. Through TPC area residents have access to a free speech forum through media production, education and distribution of cable television programming. Orange County and TPC have worked together for many years to broadcast Board of County Commissioners' meetings.

Over the years countless people have come to TPC to create and distribute their own media. In a few weeks TPC will expand its services into neighboring Durham, North Carolina, which until recently had public access services operated by Time Warner Cable.

TPC's founders, Board of Directors, local media producers, and volunteers are proud of The Peoples Channel's past achievements and excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. Despite legislative changes regulating cable TV and times of economic hardships, TPC has continued to grow. The 10 year celebration is a time for the community to reflect on the importance of having a space in the media for the community to speak to itself. In times of greater media consolidation over the last decade, TPC has represented an electronic green space free from commercial interests.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: There is no financial impact associated with approval of the resolution.

RECOMMENDATION(S): The Manager recommends the Board approve the resolution recognizing The Peoples Channel for ten years of service to the Orange County community.

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Resolution Recognizing The Peoples Channel for Ten Years of Service to the Orange County Community

WHEREAS, in 1995 a small group of concerned residents formed a non-profit organization to facilitate Public Access TV for Chapel Hill and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, that organization was The Peoples Channel (TPC), with the station opening its doors in the summer of 1998; and

WHEREAS, on May 30, 2009 TPC will mark the completion of its 10th year with a celebration event; and

WHEREAS, for ten years TPC has been promoting the advancement of democratic ideals by ensuring community members have access to electronic media and by promoting effective communication through community uses of media; and

WHEREAS, through TPC area residents have access to a free speech forum through media production, education and distribution of cable television programming; and

WHEREAS, Orange County and TPC have worked together for many years to broadcast Board of County Commissioners' meetings; and

WHEREAS, in a few weeks, TPC will expand its services into neighboring Durham, North Carolina, which until recently had public access services operated by Time Warner Cable; and

WHEREAS, TPC's founders, Board of Directors, local media producers, and volunteers are proud of The Peoples Channel's past achievements and excited about the opportunities that lie ahead;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Orange County Board of Commissioners, do hereby recognize The Peoples Channel for ten years of service to the Orange County community.

This the 2nd day of June, 2009.

Valerie P. Foushee, Chair
Orange County Board of Commissioners