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**CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

**BILL NO. 2018-10**

**INTRODUCED BY:**

Councilor Mike Harris

**AN ORDINANCE**

**GRANTING PLATEAU TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INCORPORATED A NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE TO OPERATE A TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK WITHIN THE CITY OF SANTA FE; THE RIGHT TO USE CITY PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES WITHIN THE CITY; AND FIXING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS THEREOF.**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF SANTA FE:**

**Section 1. Legislative Findings.** The governing body of the city of Santa Fe finds that:

A. The granting of a franchise to Plateau Telecommunications, Incorporated (“the Company”), is necessary for the access and use of public rights-of-way to provide telecommunications services within the city limits in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Ordinance and the Telecommunications in the Public Rights-of-Way Ordinance, Article 27-2 SFCC 1987 (“Article 27-2”).

B. The granting of such a franchise permits competitively neutral and

1 non-discriminatory access to the public rights-of-way for providers of telecommunications  
2 services; and allows the city to appropriately manage the public rights-of-way in order to  
3 minimize the impact and cost to the citizens of the placement of telecommunications facilities  
4 within the public rights-of-way.

5 C. The granting of a franchise promotes competition among telecommunications  
6 services providers and encourages the universal availability of telecommunications services to  
7 residents and businesses of the city through the careful management of public rights-of-way.

8 D. It is the intent of the city in the granting of the franchise to obtain fair and  
9 reasonable compensation for the use of public rights-of-way through the collection of fees and  
10 charges, and to minimize the congestion, inconvenience, visual impact, and other adverse effects  
11 on the public rights-of-way by Company's commercial use of public rights-of-way.

12 E. To the extent permitted by state and federal law, the granting of a franchise  
13 allows the city to exercise such other powers, as the city may have to protect the public health,  
14 safety, and welfare, ensure the continued quality of telecommunications services, and safeguard  
15 the rights of consumers who are residents of the city.

16 F. In accordance with Article 27-2, Company submitted an application for a  
17 franchise on September 8, 2011.

18 G. The city is authorized to grant one or more non-exclusive franchises for  
19 telecommunications services within the city.

20 H. The city has reviewed Company's application and has determined that granting a  
21 franchise in accordance with Article 27-2 is in the public interest and in the interest of the city  
22 and its residents.

23 I. This franchise, as it relates to the city's costs, maintenance, management, and  
24 necessary regulation of public rights-of-way, will assist in meeting the telecommunications  
25 related needs and interests of the community.

1           **Section 2.     Franchise Terms.** In exchange for Company’s compliance with the  
2 terms of this Ordinance, the provisions of Article 27-2, and other applicable city codes, there is  
3 hereby granted by the city to Company permission to use public rights-of-way to provide  
4 telecommunications services. All terms of Article 27-2 shall control Company’s use of the public  
5 rights-of-way except as specifically set out in this Ordinance.

6           **A.     Short Title; Purpose; Applicability.**

7                   (1)     This Ordinance shall be cited as the “Plateau Telecommunications  
8 Franchise Ordinance”.

9                   (2)     The purpose of this Ordinance is to grant Company, the right, privilege,  
10 and authority to:

11                           (a)     Furnish and distribute telecommunications services in the city,  
12 by means of its network, on, over, under, along and across public rights-of-way,  
13 now or hereafter included in the boundaries of the city as such boundaries now  
14 exist or may hereafter be extended; and

15                           (b)     Construct, purchase, acquire, locate, maintain, and extend into,  
16 within, and through the city, a telecommunications network for the period and  
17 upon the terms and conditions specified in this franchise comprised of all  
18 facilities and equipment used by Company to provide telecommunications  
19 services, including but not limited to “Backhaul Equipment” and “Wireless  
20 Communication Equipment.”

21                           This permission is not exclusive and does not prevent the city from  
22 issuing other franchises or authorizations or prevent the city itself from  
23 constructing or operating its own telecommunications network within the public  
24 rights-of-way, with or without a franchise.

25                   (3)     This franchise applies to the placement of telecommunications facilities

1 in the city's public rights-of-way.

2 **B. Definitions.**

3 *Bad Debt* means any portion of a debt that is related to a sale of telecommunications at  
4 retail, for which gross charges are not otherwise deductible or excludable, that has become  
5 worthless or uncollectible as determined under applicable federal income tax standards.

6 *Department* means the department of public works.

7 *Gross Charge*.

8 (1) Includes all revenues derived directly or indirectly by a Provider from or in  
9 connection with the Telecommunications Services offered within the City through or by means of  
10 a Telecommunications Network within the City, exclusive of any Franchise Fee or tax passed  
11 through to consumers on behalf of governmental agencies, received by the Provider for services  
12 provided to customers through use of the Network. *Gross Charge* shall include any revenue  
13 received by a Provider or any Affiliate through any means that is intended to have the effect of  
14 evading the payment of compensation that would otherwise be paid to the City for Franchise  
15 Contract granted pursuant to this ordinance.

16 (2) *Gross Charge* shall not include (i) proceeds from the sale of bonds, mortgages, or  
17 other evidence of indebtedness, securities, or stocks; or (ii) gross receipts taxes, bad debt write-  
18 offs, and customer credits; or (iii) revenue of any Affiliate or Provider from long distance service,  
19 commercial mobile radio service, cellular, personal communications service, other wireless  
20 communications service, or directory advertising. Each of the above are not included in the  
21 definition of *Gross Charge* and, therefore, are not included in the calculation of any fee due under  
22 a Franchise.

23 (3) *Gross Charge* shall not include the wholesale revenue of any Provider to the extent  
24 that the Person providing such wholesale revenue to the Provider pays to the City, pursuant to an  
25 agreement with the City, an annual Franchise Fee under § 27-2.5, or an amount equivalent

1 thereto, calculated on the basis of such Person's *Gross Charge* (as defined in this ordinance) from  
2 the provision of Telecommunications Service in the City.

3 (4) *Gross Charge* shall be measured and monitored periodically.

4 *Sale of Telecommunications at Retail* means the transmitting, supplying, or furnishing of  
5 telecommunications and all services rendered in connection therewith for consideration, other  
6 than between a parent corporation and its wholly owned subsidiaries or between wholly owned  
7 subsidiaries, but only when the infrastructure maintenance fee imposed by this chapter previously  
8 has been paid to a retailer and the gross charge made by one such corporation to another such  
9 corporation is not greater than the gross charge paid to the retailer for use or consumption and not  
10 for resale.

11 *Service Address* means the location of telecommunications equipment from which  
12 telecommunications services are originated or at which telecommunications services are received.  
13 If this location is not a defined location, as in the case of wireless telecommunications, paging  
14 systems, maritime systems, air-to-ground systems and the like, "service address" shall mean the  
15 location of the customer's primary use of the telecommunications equipment as defined by the  
16 location in the City where bills are sent.

17 *Telecommunications Network Any System* which includes facilities and/or equipment  
18 placed in the Public Rights-of-Way and used to provide any Telecommunications Service.

19 *Telecommunications.*

20 (1) All transmissions between or among points specified by the user of information of the  
21 user's choosing (whether voice, video, or data), without change in the form or content of the  
22 information as sent and received, where such transmissions are accomplished by means of a  
23 Telecommunications Network.

24 (2) *Telecommunications* shall not include cable services as defined in Title 47, Chapter 5,  
25 Subchapter V-A of the United States Code, as amended (47 USC § 521 et seq.) and shall not

1 include telecommunications services provided and used by a public utility as that term is defined  
2 at § 62-3-3(G) NMSA 1978, or successor statute, for (i) its internal system communication needs;  
3 and (ii) provided directly or indirectly to its customers, including but not limited to electronic  
4 meter reading, load control, demand side management, power quality monitoring, and other  
5 activities related to the delivery of electricity or natural gas.

6 *Telecommunications Provider* (“*Provider*”) means:

7 (1) Any Person who provides any Telecommunications Service within the City by means of: (i) a  
8 Telecommunications Network owned by such Person or its Affiliate; (ii) specifically identifiable  
9 facilities of a Telecommunications Network reserved or made available for the use of such Person  
10 or its Affiliate under a lease or any other arrangement for a term longer than 120 days; or (iii)  
11 facilities of a Telecommunications Network not owned by such Person or its Affiliate and not  
12 specifically identifiable but obtained from another Person (including another Provider) if the use  
13 of such facilities is continuing and substantial. A Person owning or operating telecommunications  
14 facilities that merely pass through the City and such Person and facilities do not offer  
15 Telecommunications Service to subscribers within the City shall not be subject to this ordinance,  
16 provided that Person has received other appropriate authorization from the City to rent or occupy  
17 the Public Rights-of-Way.

18 (2) Except to the extent that a *Provider* or a Person uses the Public Rights-of-Way, a *Provider* or  
19 any Person which provides commercial mobile radio service, cellular, personal communications  
20 service, or other wireless communications service shall not be subject to this ordinance with  
21 respect to such service.

22 *Telecommunications Service*. The offering of Telecommunications within the City for a  
23 fee directly to the public, or to such classes of users as to be effectively available directly to the  
24 public.

25 *Trenchless excavation* means any line installation, replacement or rehabilitation through

1 the use of boring, jacking, horizontal drilling or tunneling.

2 *Wireless Telecommunications* includes cellular mobile telephone services, personal  
3 wireless services as defined in Section 704(C) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public  
4 Law Number 104-104), as now or hereafter amended, including all commercial mobile radio  
5 services and paging services.

6 **C. Infrastructure Maintenance Franchise Fee.**

7 1. Pursuant to the authority granted by section § 3-42-1 NMSA 1978 and 47 U.S.C.  
8 253(c), there is hereby imposed an infrastructure maintenance franchise fee upon the Company at  
9 the rate of two percent (2%) of all gross charges charged by the Company to a service address in  
10 the city for telecommunications originating or received in the city.

11 2. The fee imposed by this chapter shall not be imposed in any circumstances in  
12 which the imposition of the fee would violate the Constitution or statutes of the United States.

13 **D. Filing Returns and Payment of Franchise Fee.**

14 1. On or before the last day of each quarter, the Company is required to pay the  
15 infrastructure maintenance fee imposed by this chapter and shall file with the City a remittance  
16 return and shall pay the fee attributable to gross charges for the preceding calendar month. The  
17 return shall contain such information as the director may reasonably require.

18 2. No later than February 28th of each year beginning in 2019, the Company shall  
19 provide to the City a report certified by an independent certified public accountant attesting to the  
20 amount of the infrastructure maintenance fees paid to the department for the preceding calendar  
21 year, and that such amount complies with the requirements of this chapter.

22 **E. Collection of Additional Charges by Retailers.**

23 1. When the Company makes or effectuates a sale of telecommunications at retail, it  
24 shall pay the infrastructure maintenance fee to the department as provided by section C, of this  
25 chapter. The fee shall constitute a debt owed by the retailer to the city.

1           2.       The retailer may charge each customer an additional charge in an amount equal  
2 to the infrastructure maintenance fee attributed to the customer's service address in the city. This  
3 additional charge to customers shall, when collected, be stated as a distinct item on the bill to  
4 each customer separate and apart from the retailer's gross charges to its customers for  
5 telecommunications.

6           3.       Each retailer may retain 2% of the additional charges it collects under this  
7 chapter to reimburse itself for expenses incurred in connection with accounting for and remitting  
8 the fee to the department.

9           **F.       Registration of Providers and Resellers.**

10          1.       Within ninety (90) days after the effective date of the ordinance authorizing a  
11 franchise with the Company, the Company shall provide the name and address of every  
12 telecommunications reseller or other telecommunications company with whom the Company has  
13 a contractual relationship to provide telecommunications services or to make available  
14 telecommunications facilities in the public way. The Company shall have a continuing duty to file  
15 with the City, within 45 days after the date of occurrence of any changes in the information  
16 provided to the City, including the creation or termination of a contractual relationship described  
17 herein.

18          2.       *Resales.*

19               Whenever amounts are claimed to be excluded from gross charges as sales for resale, the  
20 reseller shall furnish to the Company the reseller's resale information. The Company shall retain  
21 the resale information with its books and records.

22           **G.       Maintaining Books and Records.**

23               The Company shall keep accurate books and records of its business or activity, including  
24 original source documents and books of entry denoting the transactions that gave rise, or may  
25 have given rise, to any liability or exemption. All such books and records shall, at all times during



1 business hours of the day, be subject to and available for inspection by the department with  
2 twenty-four (24) hour notice.

3       **H. Insurance Requirements.** Company shall comply with the provisions of  
4 Section 27-2.9 SFCC 1987, and Company shall obtain and maintain in full force and effect  
5 throughout the term of this franchise the following types of insurance:

- 6           (1) Commercial comprehensive general liability insurance;
- 7           (2) Workers' Compensation insurance as required by law; and
- 8           (3) Commercial automobile liability insurance providing a minimum  
9 coverage in the amount required under the New Mexico Tort Claims Act.

10       **I. Term of Franchise.** The term of this franchise, and the rights, privileges, and  
11 authority granted hereunder shall continue for a period of ten (10) years from the effective date  
12 hereof. The term of this franchise shall automatically be renewed annually unless Company  
13 provides notice to City of its intent not to renew at least thirty (30) days prior to expiration of the  
14 then current term. Company may surrender permits at any time and remove its  
15 telecommunications facilities at any particular location upon thirty (30) days' prior written notice  
16 to City. Company shall not be obligated to pay the franchise fee for such location following  
17 removal of its telecommunications facilities.

18       **J. Indemnity.** Company and City agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless  
19 each other and its officials, agents, volunteers, and employees from and against any and all  
20 claims, actions, suits, or proceedings of any kind brought against said parties because of any  
21 injury or damage received or sustained by any person, persons, or property arising out of or  
22 resulting from the activities of the indemnifying party pursuant to this franchise, except to the  
23 extent caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the indemnitee or by reason of any  
24 asserted act or omission, neglect, or misconduct of the indemnitee, or its agents or employees, or  
25 any subcontractor or its agents or employees. The indemnity required hereunder shall not be

1 limited by reason of the specification of any particular insurance coverage. Neither party shall be  
2 liable to the other for consequential, indirect or punitive damages (including lost revenues, loss of  
3 service, or loss of data) for any cause of action, whether in contract, tort or otherwise, even if the  
4 party was or should have been aware of the possibility of these damages, whether under theory of  
5 contract, tort (including negligence), strict liability or otherwise. The maximum liability of either  
6 party to the other hereunder shall be the amount paid or payable during the preceding twelve (12)  
7 months.

8 **K. Violations and Penalties.** If the Company fails to pay the infrastructure  
9 maintenance franchise fee, as provided by this Chapter, the Company shall be subject to a fine of  
10 \$100 for each day that the failure to pay continues. Each day that the Company fails to pay shall  
11 constitute a separate and distinct violation under this Chapter. Any retailer that becomes subject  
12 to this fine may be enjoined from doing business in the City until the Company has paid all sums  
13 due under this Chapter.

14 Any telecommunications company who otherwise violates this chapter shall be subject to  
15 a fine of \$100 for each offense. Each day the violation continues shall constitute a separate  
16 offense.

17 **L. Dispute Resolution Provision.**

18 1. In the event of any other dispute arising from or relating to the franchise or  
19 breach thereof, and if the dispute cannot be settled through negotiations, the following process  
20 will be followed during which any of the above remedies and penalties may be imposed.

21 2. All disputes will be mediated prior to litigation. The costs of such mediation will  
22 be equally split. The place of the mediation session shall be in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The city  
23 and the Company will select a mediator or mediators by mutual agreement and, in cooperation  
24 with the mediator(s), shall determine all necessary rules and procedures for the mediation. The  
25 city and the Company will fully cooperate in the mediation activities. All mediation

1 communications shall be confidential, not subject to disclosure and shall not be used as evidence  
2 in any arbitration, judicial, or administrative proceeding, as set forth in the Mediation Procedures  
3 Act, NMSA 1978, §§ 44-7b-1 through 44-7b-6.

4 **M. Unauthorized Use of Public Rights-Of-Way Unlawful.** In accordance with  
5 Section 27-2.12 SFCC 1987, Company shall not:

6 (1) Use public rights-of-way without authorization to provide  
7 telecommunications services.

8 (2) Place facilities on public structures or public utility infrastructure to  
9 provide telecommunications services which are not allowed under the terms of this  
10 franchise.

11 Each unauthorized use shall be deemed to be a distinct and separate offense. The provisions of  
12 this paragraph do not apply to any dispute between the city and Company under this franchise  
13 where the city alleges that Company has failed to comply with the terms of this franchise.

14 **N. Land Use Review.** After approval of this franchise by the governing body, if  
15 Company proposes to construct additional telecommunications facilities the applicant shall  
16 comply with the provisions of 27-2.19.

17 **O. Compliance with Law.**

18 (1) Company and City shall comply with the terms and conditions of  
19 Article 27-2 SFCC 1987 except as set forth herein, all other applicable city ordinances,  
20 and federal and state laws.

21 (2) Company is explicitly subject to the police powers of the city, all other  
22 applicable governmental powers, and the city's rights under state and federal laws.

23 **P. Severability.** The requirements and provisions of this Ordinance and its  
24 sections, parts, subparts, paragraphs, and clauses are severable. In the event that any requirement,  
25 provision, section, part, subpart, paragraph, or clause of this Ordinance, or the application thereof

1 to any person or circumstance, is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or  
2 unenforceable, it is the intent of the governing body that the remainder of the Ordinance be  
3 enforced to the maximum extent possible consistent with the purposes of this Ordinance.

4 **Q. Effective Date; Publication.** As provided by NMSA 1978, Section 3-42-1, this  
5 Ordinance shall not become effective until at least thirty (30) days after its adoption, during  
6 which time this Ordinance shall be twice published in full, not less than seven days apart. As  
7 required by law, Company shall pay the publication cost.

8 **R. Acceptance.** Company, within thirty (30) days of the date of adoption of this  
9 Ordinance, shall file with the city clerk an unconditional acceptance of this Ordinance, on a form  
10 prescribed by the city. Within ten (10) days after the filing of the acceptance, the city clerk shall  
11 acknowledge in writing the receipt of Company's acceptance. If Company does not file said  
12 acceptance this Ordinance shall not be or become effective.

13 10

14 **S. Notice.** For the purpose of this Ordinance:

- 15 (1) Notice to the city shall be to:  
16 City Manager  
17 City of Santa Fe  
18 Post Office Box 909  
19 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0909

- 20 With a copy to:  
21 City Attorney  
22 City of Santa Fe  
23 Post Office Box 909  
24 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0909


25 (2) Notice to Company will be to:

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Attn.: Launa Waller, Regulatory Manager  
Plateau Telecommunications, Inc.  
7111 North Prince Street  
Clovis, NM 88101

(3) Notice shall be effective upon delivery at the above addresses until the city or Company notifies the other in writing, of a change in address. All notices shall be delivered personally or sent by certified mail, return receipt requested to the parties at their respective addresses set forth above.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
KELLEY BRENNAN, CITY ATTORNEY