



**Level 3 Communications, LLC,  
Telecommunications Franchise Agreement**  
City of Tacoma | MCO – Franchise Services  
**Government Performance & Finance Committee**  
**August 19, 2025**  
**ITEM # 1**



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## HISTORY



- Level 3 Communications, LLC has had infrastructure in the City for 25 years
- Level 3 was purchased by Lumen Technologies (formerly CenturyLink) in 2017
- Due to the Auburn Case (2001) State law does not allow Franchise Fees to be paid as part of this agreement

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## Provider Services



- IP VPN
- Enterprise Broadband
- Ethernet
- Colocation facilities
- On-Demand Network Services
- Cloud Services
- Voice
- Video
- Network Management
- Security Services

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## BACKGROUND



- Allows the provider to continue to operate within the City Right of Way for another 10 years
  - Ordinance No. 26465 – 1999
  - Ordinance No. 28214 - 2014
- Protects and Indemnifies the City

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## THIS ORDINANCE



- This Franchise has a 10-year term
- Requires the necessary bonds, letter of credit and insurance required by Title 16B and Title 10 of the Tacoma Municipal Code

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## NEXT STEPS



City Council Consideration –  
    First Reading – August 26, 2025  
    Final Reading – September 16, 2025

Publication – September 19, 2025

Effective Date – June 1, 2024

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## RECOMMENDATIONS



- Staff recommends approval of the Level 3 Communications, LLC (a subsidiary of Lumen), Telecommunications Franchise Agreement with the City of Tacoma and further requests that the Government Performance and Finance Committee forward this item to the full City Council for consideration and adoption.

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