



**7<sup>th</sup> District News**

## **COUNCILMEMBER ALEX PADILLA**

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### **PADILLA WINS COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF "OPEN ACCESS" POLICY FOR CABLE MODEM INTERNET SERVICE THROUGHOUT LOS ANGELES**

**LOS ANGELES** – Councilmember Alex Padilla today won approval for his recommendations that the City of Los Angeles adopt a policy of "open access" for cable companies offering broadband Internet service.

"This is a victory for consumers in the City of Los Angeles," said Padilla, chair of the City's Information Technology and General Services Committee. "Consumers will have a choice of their Internet service provider, and consumers will be ensured the highest level of service from cable companies offering new technologies. In addition, schools, libraries, and non-profit hospitals will be given free Internet service as part of this program. We are truly raising the bar for cable companies to provide the best available technologies for both residents and businesses."

Councilmember Padilla's recommendations include the following:

- ***Universal Access*** – Cable companies must build out cable modem platforms uniformly throughout the City of Los Angeles, both within and between the thirteen existing franchise areas and eliminate cable modem service redlining.
- ***Rapid Deployment*** – Cable companies must build out their cable Internet service as quickly as possible, and that they provide updates to the City of Los Angeles, and communities must be informed of detailed construction schedules as cable lines are upgraded.
- ***Cable Internet Service at Public Schools, Libraries, and Hospitals*** – Cable companies will now be required to do so and also to provide free cable Internet service to local public schools, libraries, and public hospitals.
- ***Rewriting of the City's Consumer Service Standards*** – Cable modem service is a new technology and the City must ensure that customers receive the best service from the cable companies. The Information Technology Agency and City Attorney will be asked to rewrite our consumer service standards so that they are appropriate to this new technology.

The three-member Information Technology committee's 2-1 vote approving Councilmember Padilla's recommendations will go to the full City Council for approval later this month.

***The 7<sup>th</sup> Council District serves the communities of Arleta, Lake View Terrace, Mission Hills, North Hills, North Hollywood, Pacoima, Panorama City, Sun Valley, Sylmar, and Van Nuys.***

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