AN ORDINANCE TO GRANT A FRANCHISE TO MCIMETRO ACCESS TRANSMISSION SERVICES CORPORATION AS A FIBER OPTICS AND COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES PROVIDER WITHIN THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; TO PERMIT THE USE OF CITY RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND CITY PROPERTY AND AIRSPACE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City has been requested by MCImetro Access Transmission Services Corporation d/b/a Verizon Access Transmission Services (“the Company”) to grant it a Franchise to use the public streets, rights-of-way, airspace, and public property, to construct a Fiber Optic and Communications Network; and,

WHEREAS, the City is willing to grant the Company such a Franchise subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this ordinance; and,

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that fiber optics are essential to the public health, safety and welfare of its residents and to the economic development of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

Section 1. Definitions. Throughout the length of this Franchise, and throughout this ordinance, the following terms and conditions shall have the following meanings:

“Event of Default” shall be the events set forth in this Franchise that are a basis for the involuntary termination of this Franchise by the City as more fully set forth in Section 7 of this Franchise.

“Fiber Optic Network” shall be the Company’s system of conduit, cables, wires, lines, towers, poles, wave guides, optic fiber, microwave, laser beams, and any associated converters, equipment, and facilities designed and constructed for the purpose of producing, receiving, amplifying, or distributing by audio, video, or other forms of electronic signals, authorized communications services to or from subscribers or locations within or through the City, provided that the terms of this Franchise shall at all times be subject to the provisions of Little Rock, Ark., Ordinance No. 21,423 (June 6, 2017), as may be amended, which sets forth the basic terms and conditions, policies and procedures, for the placement of Small Wireless Facilities within the rights-of-way of the City.

“Gross Revenues” means all revenues (excluding sales tax, extension, terminal equipment, toll, access, yellow pages, and miscellaneous equipment revenues) collected by Company for local
Intrastate Wireline Telecommunications Services provided by the Company and billed to its end user customers, in both respects, within the corporate limits of the City and from operation of the Company’s Network installed pursuant to this Agreement. Gross Revenue shall be calculated in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and means all consideration of any kind or nature, including without limitation cash, credit, property, and in-kind contributions, services, or goods derived by the holder of a Certificate of Franchise Authority from the operation of telecommunications service on a Fiber Optic Network within the City. Gross Revenue does not include: (i) Any revenue not actually received even if billed, such as bad debt; (ii) any tax of general applicability imposed upon the Company; (iii) any regulatory-required fees or surcharges collected from customers as well as amounts reflecting cost-recovery of regulatory fees and surcharges (iv) those revenues that the Company has received or will receive from another Telecommunications Service Provider and upon which the other Telecommunications Service Provider has paid or will pay a Franchise Fee; and (v) revenues that the Company has received from its corporate parent, subsidiary, or affiliate.

“Public Right-of-Way or City Right-of-Way” shall mean streets, avenues, alleys, bridges, viaducts, easements, grounds and other public places owned or controlled by, leased or granted to, or otherwise under the jurisdiction and regulation of the City as provided by the laws of the State of Arkansas as amended.

“Small Wireless Facility” as defined in Little Rock, Ark., Ordinance No. 21,423 (June 6, 2017) means a wireless facility that meets both of the following qualifications: (1) each Antenna is located inside an enclosure of no more than six (6) cubic-feet in volume, or, in the case of an antenna that has exposed elements, the Antenna and all of its exposed elements could fit within an imaginary enclosure of not more than six (6) cubic-feet in volume; and, (2) all other wireless equipment associated with the facility is cumulatively no more than twenty-eight (28) cubic-feet in volume. The following types of ancillary equipment are not included in the calculation of equipment volume: electric meter, concealment elements, telecommunications demarcations box, ground-based enclosures, grounding equipment, power transfer switch, cut-off switch, and vertical cable runs for the connection of power and other services. For this definition of Small Wireless Facility within this Franchise, the term Antenna means communication equipment that transmits or receives electromagnetic radio frequency signals used in the provision of wireless services. Nothing in this Franchise shall be read to excuse the Company from any regulatory approval or permit required for the deployment of a Small Wireless Facility.

Section 2. City Grant of Authority.

(a) Grant of Franchise. The Company is hereby granted a Franchise (“the Franchise”) to occupy and use the public rights-of-way and airways within and belonging to the City in order to
construct, operate, maintain, upgrade, repair and remove a Fiber Optic Network in, under, over and along the public right-of-way, subject to the terms and conditions of this ordinance.

(b) **Term of Franchise.** This Franchise shall commence thirty (30) days from the date the Little Rock Board of Directors passes an ordinance approving the Franchise and shall continue in force in accordance with A.C.A § 14-200-103 unless the Franchise is terminated as the result of the occurrence of an Event of Default or abandonment in accordance with the terms herein, or upon agreement of the parties if a term less than that set forth in Ark. Code Ann. § 14-200-103 is provided by Arkansas State Law, or if there is a ruling under Arkansas State law that a Fiber Optic Franchise is not to be treated as a utility; provided, that absent an Event of Default or abandonment, no single term of the Franchise shall be for a period of less than five (5) years from the effective date of this ordinance.

(c) **Nonexclusive Franchise.** The Franchise is not exclusive. Except as expressly provided herein, nothing in this Franchise shall limit, or otherwise restrict, the right of the City to enter into similar agreements with other companies for the use of the City’s rights-of-way.

(d) **Scope of Franchise.** The scope of the Franchise awarded pursuant to this ordinance is limited to the incorporated area of the City. The City and the Company agree that entrance into this Agreement is without prejudice to any positions that either may have taken previously, or may take in the future, in any legislative, regulatory, judicial or other public forum addressing any matters, including matters related to the same types of arrangements covered in this Franchise. This Franchise shall not give the Company any right to use any property or public rights-of-way dedicated to the exclusive use of a utility within the City unless expressly agreed to by such utility.

(e) **Process for Renewal of Franchise.** Absent an Event of Default or abandonment, and assuming the successful and satisfactory compliance with the terms of this Franchise, the City and the Company anticipate that the Franchise will be renewed at the end of any term as set forth in Section 1 (b) of this ordinance for the same term as the previous Franchise. Prior to any renewal, the following process shall be followed:

   (i) Not less than 120 days prior to the end of the term of the Franchise, the Company shall notify the City in writing of its intention to seek renewal of the Franchise;

   (ii) Upon receipt of such a written intention, the City shall schedule a public hearing to be held not later than sixty (60) days prior to the end of the term of the Franchise for the purpose of seeking public input on the issue of renewal from all interested persons limited to the issue of compliance with the terms of the Franchise by the Company;

   (iii) If, as a result of these hearings, the City determines, in its sole discretion, that any significant problems have occurred, the Company shall be required to respond to these concerns in writing within ten (10) days of written notice by the City;
(iv) If the City is satisfied with the answers to these inquiries, or if the City determines, within its sole discretion, that there have been no significant problems then the City shall announce not less than thirty (30) days prior to the end of the term of this Franchise its intent to renew the Franchise and shall, by resolution, state an intended term for such renewal;

(v) All other terms and conditions are subject to renegotiation and an ordinance adopting a new agreement shall be enacted prior to the end of the term of this Franchise, provided the parties may agree in writing to extend the initial term in order to finalize any ongoing negotiations, and provided further, that should the Company fail to negotiate in good faith this shall be deemed an Event of Default which, in such case, permits the City to take such action as permitted in Section 7 of this Franchise

(f) Reservation of Authority.

(i) The City reserves the right to perform any necessary public works or make any necessary public improvements to the City’s rights-of-way during the term of this Franchise. If, as a result of any such action by the City, or by any action authorized by the City for the benefit of the public good, relocation of any of the Company’s conduit or other facilities is required, such relocation shall be accomplished at the sole expense of the Company. Nothing in this Franchise shall be deemed a waiver of the right of the City to require the Company to comply with all applicable zoning and other applicable regulatory ordinances or to pay any reasonable permit fees or to seek appropriate authorizations from the Company to perform any work in connection with the Franchise. Should the City close, eliminate, or discontinue the use of any City rights-of-way during the term of this Franchise, or any renewal term, this Franchise shall cease with respect to such right-of-way upon the date of final action by the City with respect to the closure, elimination or discontinuance of such street or City rights-of-way, provided the Company shall be provided notice of the City’s intent to do so and to appear and state its position on such City abandonment of right-of-way.

(ii) In all cases where there is a likelihood that the Company may be required to relocate, or change the route of or reposition its poles, lines, or conduits, the City shall give notice, in the form of written plans, at a Utility Coordination Meeting called by the City to discuss such plans. The meeting, at which the relocation plans are discussed, shall be held at least thirty (30) days before relocation is required. The City shall not be entitled to be paid its cost and expense for any such relocation, or any damages incurred as a result of such relocation, unless such expenses are reimbursable or payable to the City, directly or indirectly, but nothing shall obligate the City to pay any cost or expense unless and until
the City actually receives funds from the State of Arkansas, the United States, or any
governmental agency of either, for the express purpose of payment of costs and expenses
incurred by the relocation. Nothing in this Franchise is intended to eliminate or waive any
right that the Company may have to reimbursement under applicable law or the terms of
any public funding grant for a project.

(g) **Notice of Intention to Construct.** The City has a vested interest in assuring that any
disruption of the flow of traffic, or the digging or creation of a trench in any of the streets, be kept
to a minimum. In order to facilitate this interest, the City and the Company agree as follows:

(i) Upon application of the Company, or on behalf of the Company, for a construction
permit to open the street, the City shall provide notice to all utility and any Fiber Optic
Network. During such time not to exceed fifteen (15) days from the date of the application,
the City shall withhold approval of any such permits so that any other utility that desires to
do so will be allowed to ask to simultaneously lay conduct, or other appropriate equipment
in, or adjoining, any trench opened by the Company. The City may extend this time period
for emergency situations if the City or a utility or order of a Fiber Optic Network so desires.
The Company shall permit that utility or Fiber Optic Network to do so provided:

(A) The other utility or Fiber Optic Network shares in the cost of opening and
repairing any trench; and,

(B) The desire of the other utility or Fiber Optic Network to so participate does
not unnecessarily delay the Company’s construction schedule.

(ii) The Company agrees that if, pursuant to a similar application from other utilities
or another Fiber Optic Network, it receives notice from the City of a request for a permit
to open the streets, the Company shall determine whether to participate in the opening of
any such trench by that utility or Fiber Optic Network and shall participate in such a project
pursuant to the terms of this subsection.

(iii) For purposes of this subsection, “utility” means any gas provider, cable television
company, electric service provider, interexchange, long distance or local exchange
Telecommunications Services Provider, Central Arkansas Water, Little Rock Water
Reclamation Commission, Little Rock Ambulance Authority, Little Rock Airport
Commission, Little Rock Port Authority, or any other entity laying pipes, cables, conduits,
or wire on, over, or beneath City rights-of-way and that has a Franchise with the City.

Section 3. **Construction Requirements.**

(a) **Quality.** All work involved in the construction, operation, maintenance, repair, upgrade,
and removal of the Fiber Optic Network that is permitted by this Franchise shall be performed in a
safe, thorough, reliable manner using materials of good and durable quality in accordance with
Generally Accepted Construction Standards, and in compliance with all of the applicable ordinances of the City and laws and regulations of any governmental entity having jurisdiction. If, at any time, it is determined by the City that any part of the Fiber Optic Network is harmful to the health of safety of any person, then the Company shall, at its own cost and expense, promptly correct all such conditions. For purposes of this subsection, promptly shall mean twenty-four (24) hours, or a longer period of time if and only if additional time is granted in writing by the City.

(b) Construction Requirements.

(i) Before the Company constructs, extends, makes major repairs to or replaces its Fiber Optic Network (not including lateral connections that provide minimal interference with flow of traffic on City rights-of-way for which permits have been properly issued), it shall file with the City’s Public Works Department, a written work description, including scale drawings, digital location data showing the Fiber Optic Network’s existing and planned location and, if applicable, estimated depth of any facilities. The description and map shall also include information concerning the Company’s fiber access Points of Presence (“POP”). The plans will be reviewed by the City and any comments will be provided to the Company within ten (10) business days. The City agrees to expedite its review when conditions warrant. When an emergency occurs, the Company shall perform needed repairs to its Fiber Optic Network in the City right-of-way and shall notify the Public Works Department within twenty-four (24) hours following such emergency repairs.

(ii) Any construction project shall be completed within 180 days from the date that the Public Works Department properly issues any necessary permits, provided that the City may allow reasonable extensions due to weather or Acts of God, or other reasonable circumstances that justify an extension of the project target completion date.

(iii) If the City requires the Company to remove, alter, change, adapt or conform its Fiber Optic Network to enable any other person or entity, except the City, to use, or to use with greater convenience, the City right-of-way, the Company shall be obligated to make such changes to its Fiber Optic Network only if said person or entity pays the Company or posts an appropriate bond if required by the Company, to reimburse the Company for any loss and expense which will be caused by or which will arise out of such changes to the Company’s Fiber Optic Network. THE CITY SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY REIMBURSEMENT, LOSS, OR EXPENSE WHICH IS CAUSED BY OR WHICH ARISES OUT OF CHANGES TO THE COMPANY’S FIBER OPTIC NETWORK.

(c) No Liability to Company. Neither the City nor its officers, employees, agents, attorneys, consultants or independent contractors shall have any liability to the Company as a result of any
disruption or damages to the Fiber Optic Network that occur as a result of or in connection with any protection, breaking through, movement, removal, alteration, or relocation of any part of the Fiber Optic Network by or on behalf of the Company or the City in connection with any emergency public work of any nature whatsoever, improvement, alteration of municipal structure, any change in the grade or line of any street, or the elimination, discontinuation, or closing of any street, as provided for in this Franchise; except, however, the City shall reasonably attempt to avoid any damage to the Company’s Fiber Optic Network and shall provide reasonable notice to the Company so as to allow the Company to protect its Network. Nothing in this agreement shall limit the City’s liability for gross negligence or willful misconduct of City Officials or Agents.

Section 4. Compensation to the City.

(a) Franchise Fees – Amount.

(i) The Company shall pay to the City Franchise Fees beginning with the quarterly payment immediately following the date upon which the Company begins to receive Gross Revenue, an amount equal to 5% of Gross Revenue as defined in this Franchise. Because it is not clear that Gross Revenues will be available for some time, as a means to ensure the citizens of Little Rock are compensated for the use of their property, the Company, in addition to Gross Revenue Franchise Fee shall also make an in-kind Franchise payment as outlined in (c) below.

(ii) The payment of a Franchise Fee by the Company in no way limits the right of the City to charge reasonable fees for any permits the Company is required to obtain for any construction project; nor does the payment of a Franchise Fee preclude the right of the City to assess a reasonable Business License Fee on the Company.

(b) Franchise Fee – Payment. All such payments of Franchise Fees required by this section shall be made quarterly and, in any event, no later than fifteen (15) days after March 31st, June 30th, September 30th, and December 31st of each year.

(c) Franchise Fees Subject to Audit: Remedy for Underpayment by the Company. The Company shall provide business records which shall be sufficient for the City to verify the accuracy of the Franchise Fees upon reasonable request by the City, but no more often than annually. No acceptance of any Franchise Fee payment by the City shall be construed as an accord and satisfaction that the amount paid is in fact the correct amount, nor shall acceptance be deemed a release of any claim the City may have for further or additional sums payable pursuant to this Franchise. All amounts shall be subject to audit and recomputation by the City in accordance with the provisions of this Franchise.
(d) **Authority to Pass Franchise Fee Payments on to System End Users.** To the extent permitted by law, the Company is permitted to collect any Franchise Fee assessed by the City from its customer.

(e) **In-Kind Consideration for the City.**

1. The Company shall provide the City, without charge, and solely for the City's municipal purposes:
   
   (i) Eight (8) dark fibers (four (4) pairs) in all City right-of-way where the Company deploys at least 288 fiber strands, whether underground or aerial (the "City Fibers").
   
   (ii) The Company shall create a maximum of twenty (20) splice points at the request of the City among existing the Company access points. The City shall reimburse the Company, at the Company's cost, for any splice points requested by the City beyond twenty (20).
   
   (iii) The Company shall perform all splicing of the City lateral cables to the City Fibers. The City shall reimburse the Company, at the Company's cost of any splicing (beyond the first twenty (20) splice points).
   
   (iv) The Company shall provide ongoing repair and maintenance of the City Fibers at the Company's cost.

2. At any time during the term of the Franchise, the parties may mutually-agree for the Company to provide an in-kind exchange consisting of one (11) or more the Company services (such intelligent traffic, video, lighting, pedestrian safety, shot spotter, or indoor Wi-Fi) in-lieu of part or all of any consideration otherwise due by the Company under the agreement.

### Section 5. Oversight Regulation.

(a) **City's Right of Oversight.** The City shall have the right to oversee and periodically inspect the construction, operation, maintenance and upgrade of the Fiber Optic Network, and all parts of the same, in accordance with the provisions of this Franchise and applicable law. The City reserve the right to adopt such rules, regulations, orders, or other directives governing the Company’s construction and maintenance of the Fiber Optic Network as it shall find necessary or appropriate in the exercise of its Police Power, and such other orders as the City shall find necessary or appropriate pursuant to and in furtherance of the purposes of this franchise. The Company expressly agrees to comply with all lawful rules, regulations, orders, or other directives issued pursuant to this section. No rule, regulation, order, or other directive issued pursuant to this section shall constitute an amendment of this Franchise.

(b) **Proprietary Information as Property of Company.** The City and the Company recognize that in order to comply with all the terms and conditions of this Franchise it may, on occasion, be necessary for the Company to provide the City access to certain proprietary
information. To the extent that such information is individually noted and marked "PROPRIETARY" and/or "CONFIDENTIAL" by the Company, the City acknowledges that such information will always be considered to be in the sole custody and control of the Company, that the information will only be reviewed by the City and, that despite the immediate location of such material, the Company shall never be deemed to have provided it to the City for the City’s possession and control nor to include such information as a part of any public record. In the absence of a court order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction, or a subpoena duly issued according to law, should any person request access to such information upon the basis of State or Federal Freedom of Information Laws, the City shall immediately return the information to the Company with notice of the request, shall refuse access to the records to the requesting party, and shall complete any necessary review at the Company office listed below. Nothing in this Franchise should be considered to mean that in the event it is necessary for purposes of litigation, State or Federal Public Finance Laws, or otherwise, for the City to publish information, the City is waiving any right to request publication or to comply with any appropriate order, statute, regulation, subpoena or request for publication of such material.

Section 6. Restrictions as to Assignments and Other Transfers. The Company may assign, sell, or transfer in any manner, in whole or in part, its right, title or interest in any part of the Fiber Optic Network, provided the Company shall give written notice to the City within thirty (30) calendar days of the closing of such a transaction, and provided further that the new owner or assignee is duly authorized by the state to own and operate the Fiber Optic Network. The Company shall have the right to mortgage or pledge a portion or all of the Fiber Optic Network in order to secure financing of the Company’s operations obtained in the ordinary course of business. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no mortgage or pledge entered into by the Company shall relieve any person including the Mortgagor or pledger, of any of the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Should any person, including the Company, default or otherwise be deemed in violation of the terms of this Franchise, the City shall be permitted to exercise all its rights, privileges and remedies pursuant to this Franchise.

Section 7. Specific Rights and Remedies.

(a) Nonexclusive Remedies. The City and the Company agree that the other party shall have the specific rights and remedies set forth in this Franchise. These rights and remedies are in addition to and cumulative with any and all other rights or remedies, express or implied now or hereafter available at law or in equity in order to enforce the provisions of this Franchise. Such rights and remedies shall not be exclusive, but each and every right and remedy specifically provided or otherwise existing or given may be exercised from time to time and as often and in such order as may be deemed expedient. The exercise of one (1) or more rights or remedies shall not be deemed
a waiver of or acquiescence to any default. The exercise of any such right or remedy shall not release the other party from its obligations or any liability under this Franchise, except as expressly provided for in this Franchise or as necessary to avoid duplicative recovery by the Company or any Guarantor.

(b) **Events of Default.** The Company agrees that an Event of Default shall include, but shall not be limited to, any of the following acts or failures to act by the Company or any employee, agent, or assignee of the Company:

(i) Failure to obtain any applicable permits from the City before construction or making material expansions in the Fiber Optic Network;

(ii) Failure to supply insurance, bonds, or letters of credit as may be required by the City to assure the proper completion of any restoration or repair performed pursuant to the franchise;

(iii) Failure to make any of the payments set forth in this Franchise;

(iv) Failure to pay any permit fees, or substantial failure to comply with any applicable rules, regulations, orders or directives of the City as set forth in this Franchise;

(v) Failure to give notice to the City of assignment, sale or transfer of the Fiber Optic Network;

(vi) Refusal to relocate any aspect of the Fiber Network Franchise as required by the City for a municipal purpose consistent with applicable ordinances of City, when given written direction to do so by the City Manager, even one performed in conjunction with the State of Arkansas, the Federal Government, another governmental subdivision, or any such combination; for purposes of this subsection, “refusal” shall mean Verizon’s failure to commence a meaningful response to the City’s notice within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the letter from the City Manager, and further means the reasonable and expeditious continued progress on the relocation of facilities so the City project may proceed without delay.

(vii) Refusal to cooperate with a City Franchise Fee Audit in accordance with the provisions of this Franchise, whether conducted by City personnel or by personnel or third-parties hired by the City, including, but not limited to, the failure to provide access to financial records of the company within thirty (30) calendar days of a request for such records.

(c) **City Action Upon Occurrence of an Event of Default.** Upon the occurrence of an Event of Default and in accordance with the procedures provided for in this ordinance, the City may:

(i) Require the Company to take such actions as necessary to cure the Event of Default; or,
(ii) Seek money damages from the Company as compensation for such Event of Default; or,

(iii) Declare an abandonment of the Franchise and revoke and terminate the franchise, following notice of the Event of Default and failure to cure.

(d) **Procedure to Follow upon Default.** The City shall exercise the rights set forth in this section in accordance with the following procedures:

(i) The City Manager shall notify the Company, in writing, of an alleged Event of Default. This written notice shall set forth with reasonable specificity the facts the City believes are the basis for declaring that an Event of Default has occurred. The Company shall, within thirty (30) business days of the date of the notice is postmarked, e-mailed, or otherwise noted to have been delivered, or such additional time as the City Manager may specify in the notice, cure the alleged Event of Default, or, in writing, present for review by the City Manager a reasonable time frame and method to cure the Event of Default. The Company, in lieu of the cure of the Event of Default as set forth, may present written facts and arguments as to why the Company disagrees that an Event of Default has occurred.

(ii) If the Company presents a written response that challenges whether an Event of Default has occurred, the City Manager shall within ten (10) calendar days review the submitted materials and determine again whether an Event of Default has occurred. If the City Manager reaffirms that an Event of Default has occurred, the Company shall be notified in writing of this decision and shall, within thirty (30) calendar days, cure the alleged Event of Default, provided the Company may immediately request, and the City Manager may provide, for a reasonable extension of time for the cure of the Event of Default for good cause shown. The determination of good cause is solely within the discretion of the City.

(iii) If the Company still fails to cure the Event of Default so declared pursuant to this section within the time permitted by the City Manager, the City Manager shall notify the Board of Directors and an ordinance to revoke the Franchise and require the Company to remove all facilities associated with the Fiber Optic Network within thirty (30) days of the passage of the ordinance repealing the Franchise.

(e) **Procedure to Follow upon Default with Relation to Sections 7 (b) (v) and (vi).** Notwithstanding any other provision of this ordinance, if the Event of Default by the Company is covered by Section 7 (b) (v) or Section 7 (b) (vi) of this ordinance, the time frames set forth in these subsections shall be followed. At the end of the times frames enumerated, if the Company has not cured the Event of Default, then the City Manager shall proceed pursuant to Section 7 (d) (iii).
(f) **Removal.** IN ADDITION TO THE RIGHTS UNDER THIS SECTION, THE CITY, UPON ANY TERMINATION, MAY, AT ITS SOLE DISCRETION, DIRECT THE COMPANY TO REMOVE, AT THE COMPANY’S SOLE COST AND EXPENSE, ANY AND ALL OF THE FIBER OPTIC NETWORK THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ORDINANCE FROM THE CITY RIGHT-OF-WAY IF THE FAILURE TO REMOVE THE FIBER OPTIC NETWORK WILL, WITHIN THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE CITY, ENDANGER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE OR OTHERWISE ADVERSELY AFFECT THE PUBLIC INTEREST, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING:

   (i) The City may determine that removal of buried fiber optic cable or conduit is not necessary;

   (ii) In removing any part of the Fiber Optic Network, the Company shall refill and compact, at its own expense, any excavation that shall be made by it and shall leave all City right-of-way in as good a condition as that prevailing, in the sole opinion of the City, as that prevailing prior to the Company’s removal of the Fiber Optic Network;

   (iii) The City shall have the right to inspect and approve the conditions of the City right-of-way after removal has occurred;

   (iv) The removal shall commence within thirty (30) business days of an order to remove issued by the City Manager;

   (v) Prior to the City’s exercise of this right, the Company’s mortgagees, pledgees, or other persons providing financing to the Company shall have the right to cure the Company’s default under this Agreement. The City acknowledges that its right to direct the Company to remove the Fiber Optic Network provided for in this Franchise shall be subject and subordinate to the rights of the Company’s mortgagee, pledgee, or other person providing financing to the Company, as described in the written documents evidencing the financing or the security for the financing, provided that such mortgagee, creditor, pledgee, or other person providing financing to the City complies with each and every term and condition of this Franchise.

   (e) **Consent Not a Waiver.** The grant or waiver of any one or more of the consents required by this Franchise shall not render unnecessary any subsequent consent, nor shall the grant of any such consent constitute a waiver of any other rights of the City or the Company.

**Section 8. Subsequent Action.**

(a) **Current Enforceability of Agreement.** The City and the Company agree that the execution of this Franchise and the terms and conditions are valid in their entirety.

(b) **Indemnification.** The Company shall indemnify and hold harmless the City and all of its officers, agents, and employees from all suits, actions, or claims of any character, style and
description brought for or on account of any injuries or damages, including death, received or sustained by any person or any property occasioned by, arising out of, or in connection with the grossly negligent or negligent acts or omissions of the Company regarding the erection, construction, location, replacement, reconstructions, maintenance, repair, or operation of the Fiber Optic Network, and the Company shall pay any judgments, interest, and costs which may be obtained against the City arising out of such injury or damage. If the Franchise granted by this ordinance is terminated, abandoned, or is not renewed, and the Company does not remove its facilities from the City right-of-way, the Company shall continue to indemnify and hold harmless the City pursuant to this section as long as its facilities are located in the City right-of-way.

Section 9. Insurance Requirements. The Company shall maintain the following insurance coverages and the respective policies shall cover all risks related to the use and occupancy of the City right-of-way and all other risks associated with this Franchise.

(a) Description of Insurance and Limits.

(i) Commercial General Liability Insurance. Two Million Dollars ($2,000,000.00) per occurrence coverage which shall include the following: premises operations; independent contractors; products/completed operations; personal and advertising injury; contractual liability; explosion/collapse/underground property damage. This insurance shall be provided on an occurrence basis and be as comprehensive as the current Insurance Services Office (ISO) Policy.

(ii) Commercial Automobile Liability Insurance. One Million Dollars ($1,000,000.00) combined single-limit each accident for bodily injury and property damage covering all hired, owned, non-owned, or borrowed vehicles.

(iii) Pollution Liability. One Million Dollars ($1,000,000.00) per occurrence covering claims arising from gradual emissions and sudden accidents. Clean-up and defense costs shall be covered.

(iv) Workers Compensation Insurance Statutory Limits. Employer’s Liability Five Hundred Thousand Dollars ($500,000.00) for each accident/disease-each employee/disease-policy limit.

(b) Other Insurance Related Requirements

(i) The City shall be included as an additional insured as their interest may appear under this Agreement, by blanket additional insured endorsement, except workers compensation and employer’s liability;

(ii) Applicable insurance policies shall include a waiver of subrogation in favor of the City;
(iii) Insurers shall be rated “A-: VII” or better by A.M Best and such companies shall be authorized to do business and be in good standing in the State of Arkansas.

(iv) The City shall be notified within a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the insurer’s action in the event of cancellation, non-renewal or material change coverage regarding any policy providing insurance coverage required in this Franchise.

(v) Limits of insurance required in Subsection (a) of this section shall be available for claims arising out of this Franchise with the City.

(vi) Certificates of Insurance shall be provided by the Company to the City prior to commencement of operations pursuant to this Franchise. Any failures on the part of the City to request such documentation shall not be construed as a waiver of the specified insurance requirements.

(vii) The City shall be entitled, upon reasonable request, to review (but not possess) the insurance policies including endorsements to the policies and, at its discretion, to require proof of payment for policy premiums.

(viii) The City reserves the right to review and revise the insurance requirements specified in this Franchise and requirement the company to comply with any such revisions within thirty (30) days of official notice from the City provided that such changes are made applicable at the same time to all similarly situated carriers.

(ix) The City shall not be responsible for paying the cost of insurance required by the Franchise.

(x) “Other insurance,” as referenced in any policy of insurance providing coverages required by this Franchise shall not apply to the City.

(xi) The Company shall agree to either require its contractors to maintain the same insurance coverages and limits that are specific in this Franchise or such coverage on the Company’s contractors shall be provided by the Company.

Section 10. Miscellaneous Issues.

(a) Controlling Law. This Franchise shall be determined according to the laws of the State of Arkansas and venue and jurisdiction to challenge, contest, review, or otherwise subject its terms and conditions to litigation shall occur in Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas, or in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

(b) Captions. The captions given to various provisions of this Franchise are for purposes of convenience only and are to have no impact upon the interpretation of any such provisions.

(c) Entire Agreement. This Franchise, with its exhibits, comprises the entire agreement between the City and the Company for purposes of this Franchise, provided, that any modification
to Little Rock, Ark., Rev. Code 2-350 to -357 (1988) – the City Utility Relocation Policy – may be applied to this Franchise.

(d) **Nondiscrimination.** The Company agrees to comply with all applicable local, State and Federal Laws and regulations the prohibit discrimination against any individual on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information. Further, the Company agrees to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d and following, 78 Stat. 252) and its applicable statutory, regulatory authorities, other pertinent directives, circulars, policy, memoranda, and guidance prohibiting discrimination on the basis for race, color national origin, age, sex and disability and give assurance that it will promptly take any measures necessary to assure such compliance at any site, or as a part of any project, that triggers that applicability of Title VI.

(e) **Burden of Proof.** In any disagreement upon the terms and conditions of this Franchise, the Company shall bear the burden to demonstrate that it is in compliance with each term and condition of the Franchise for all purposes.

(r) **No Coercion.** The Company and the City enter into this Franchise Agreement willingly and voluntarily and without any coercion, undue influence, or duress.

(g) **Multiple Originals.** This Franchise may be executed in any number of copies and any fully executed copy of this Franchise shall be deemed an original for purposes of authentication or presentation in evidence before any court, administrative tribunal, or alternative dispute resolution proceeding.

(h) **Notice.** Any notice or communication required in the administration of this Franchise shall be sent by any method which assures overnight delivery and shall be addressed as follows:

    (i) **For the City of Little Rock**

    City Manager
    500 West Markham Street, Room 203
    Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

    with a copy delivered to:

    Office of the City Attorney
    500 West Markham Street, Suite 310
    Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

    And

    Office of the Treasury Manager
    500 West Markham Street, Suite 100
    Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
(ii) For the Company

MCI Metrom Access Transmission Services Corporation
d/b/a Verizon Access Transmission Services
Attn: Franchise Manager
600 Hidden Ridge
Irving, TX 75038

With a copy delivered to (except for invoices):

Verizon
Attn: Vice-President and Deputy General Counsel, Network Services
1320 North Courthouse Road, Suite 900
Arlington, VA 22201

Invoices:

Verizon
Attn: Contract Administration
6929 North Lakewood Avenue, MD 5.3-4009
Tulsa, OK 74117

(iii) The City and the Company may, from time to time, designate a different person or entity for notice by letter to the primary parties listed immediately above.

(iv) For purposes of notice, delivery to the primary party named is sufficient to establish that the required notice has been accomplished, and such delivery to those copied with the notice is not required to establish that notice has been accomplished.

(i) Access to Legal Counsel. The parties agree that each individual party has had independent access to legal counsel as to the terms and conditions of this Franchise; therefore, no party shall be entitled to any presumption based upon which party drafted the terms and conditions of this Franchise.

(h) No Barrier to Competition. The parties agree that the terms and conditions of this Franchise are reasonable, fair and equitable, and comply with all local, State and Federal Laws and regulations; further, that nothing in the terms of this Franchise in any way constitutes a barrier to competition.

(i) Change in Law. Notwithstanding any other term of condition set forth above, the parties agree that should there be a significant change in the law that would govern a Franchise for a Fiber Optic Network, the parties shall upon, the request of either the City or the Company, within forty-five (45) days of such request, sit down to discuss and negotiate any necessary modifications of this Franchise occasioned by such change in law.

(j) Signatories for Acceptance of Terms & Conditions of the Franchise. Exhibit A to this Franchise is a signatory page for the City and for the Company to execute and represents that the
parties agree to the terms and conditions set forth within this ordinance, and that the persons
executing this Exhibit have the authority of the City and of the Company to do so.

Section 11. Severability. In the event any title, section, paragraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase, or
word of this ordinance is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or
adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of the ordinance which shall remain in full force and
effect as if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional was not originally a part of the
ordinance.

Section 12. Anniversary Review. No sooner than the first anniversary of the grant of this Franchise
and not more than once in any twenty-four (24)-month period, upon the request of City in its sole and
absolute discretion, Company and City shall meet and review the terms of this ordinance, and any concerns
or issues raised in respect thereof, and negotiate in good faith any modifications as the parties may
determine, in good faith, are necessary to address such concerns or issues.

Section 13. Repealer. All laws, ordinances, resolutions, or parts of the same that are inconsistent with
the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 14. Subsequent Ordinance; Effect on Competition; Limited Waiver. The parties understand
and acknowledge that terms in this Franchise, including the definition of Gross Revenues, are based on
existing Franchise Arrangements between the City and other similar providers. The parties further
understand and acknowledge that the City intends to update and modernize its Franchise Requirements to
conform with changes in the industry. Upon such time as the City has enacted a new Ordinance of General
Applicability that contains a definition of Gross Revenues or other lawful rental obligation or Franchise
Fee for use of the right-of-way for telecommunications and other services provided by means of fiber-optic
cables in the rights-of-way, but not including cable service as defined in 47 USC § 522, and such ordinance
is effective and enforceable, the terms of this Agreement shall be deemed to be automatically conformed to
such new framework without the need of any further action by either party, provided that the terms of the
ordinance must be effective and enforceable against other such providers for it to alter the terms and
conditions of this Agreement. Each party shall cooperate with the other in executing an amendment or
other instrument reflecting such implementation, as either party desires. In connection therewith, Company
waives and relinquishes any claim that the Franchise Fee collected under this Agreement for time periods
prior to the effective date of such new ordinance is an illegal exaction, and waives and relinquishes any
claim to any refund thereof to which it otherwise might be entitled by way of such a finding.

PASSED: September 4, 2018

ATTEST:                      APPROVED:

__________________________  __________________________
Susan Langley, City Clerk    Mark Stodola, Mayor
APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

___________________________________
Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney
EXHIBIT A

EXECUTION OF FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

WHEREUPON, the City and the Company, acting through their duly authorized officers and pursuant to appropriate authority granted by their respective governing bodies, do hereby execute this Franchise.

CITY OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

By: ________________________________
   Bruce T. Moore, City Manager

Date: _______________________________

MCIMETRO ACCESS TRANSMISSION SERVICES CORPORATION

By: ________________________________

Title: _______________________________

Date: _______________________________

ATTEST:

__________________________________  ____________________________________

Date: _______________________________  Date: _______________________________
CITY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF ARKANSAS)
)
COUNTY OF PULASKI)

I, _____________________________, a Notary Public in and for Pulaski County, Arkansas, do hereby certify that Bruce T. Moore, personally known to me as the City Manager for the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, and Susan Langley, personally known to me as the City Clerk for the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, appeared before me this ____ day of September, 2018, in personally and severally acknowledged that as the City Manager and City Clerk they signed and sealed this instrument and caused the seal of the Board of Directors of the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, as their free and voluntary act and deed of said City of Little Rock, Arkansas, for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Given under my hand and notarial seal this ____ day of September, 2018.

__________________________________________
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:
(Seal)
COMPANY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF __________)
ss
COUNTY OF _________)

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this day before the undersigned, a Notary Public within and for the County aforesaid, duly commissioned and acting, appeared in person ___________________________ and ___________________________ to me well known, who stated that they were the __________________________ and __________________________ of the company executing this instrument, and were duly authorized in their respective capacities to execute the foregoing instrument for the name and behalf of said company, and further stated that they had executed the same for the consideration and purposes mentioned in the Franchise as set forth. Given under my hand and notarial seal this ____ day of September, 2018.

WITNESS my hand and seal as such Notary Public on this ____ day of September, 2018.

______________________________
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

(Seal)

______________________________