



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 25, 2014

CONTACT: pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov, [\(212\) 788-2958](tel:2127882958)

No. 412

**MAYOR DE BLASIO RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT COMCAST AND TIME WARNER
CABLE MERGER IN COMMENTS TO FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

*Mayor reiterates need for universal, affordable broadband access for every New Yorker, urges
FCC to require Comcast to make assurances to public in merger with Time Warner Cable*

NEW YORK—Mayor Bill de Blasio today submitted comments regarding the contemplated merger between Comcast and Time Warner Cable to the Federal Communications Commission. The City has engaged in a constructive dialogue with Comcast about implications of their contemplated merger with Time Warner Cable, but remains concerned about the potential merger's impact on New Yorkers, especially those without affordable, high-speed broadband access. The City's comments lay out commitments the FCC should require Comcast to make before merging with Time Warner Cable.

"Reliable high-speed Internet access is no longer a luxury, but a necessity for connecting people to job opportunities and critical services, helping to support economic and business development in our cities," said **Mayor Bill de Blasio**. "The contemplated merger between Comcast and Time Warner Cable has particularly serious implications for those who are least likely to have access to high-speed Internet – among them the low-income, elderly and disabled residents and people of color. Comcast needs to make demonstrable commitments to expand accessibility to underserved residents, upgrade infrastructure, improve customer service, and protect and promote an open Internet before merging with Time Warner."

Commitments for Comcast recommended by City include:

- Affordable access for low-income and other underserved residents, including the elderly and persons with disabilities
- Transparent accounting of rate changes
- Improved customer service and notification
- Timely upgrading of infrastructure to fiber optic cable
- Expansion of affordable broadband infrastructure and services to geographic locations where they are lacking

- Support for municipal access and resiliency initiatives
- Meaningful and stable support for public, educational and government channels
- Protection and promotion of an open Internet, through Net Neutrality commitments

Read the full letter here: <http://on.nyc.gov/1mHVDt>

###