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THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BARRIE
Mayor's Office
"Committed to Service Excellence"

November 27, 2017

Secretary General
Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N2
Fax: (819) 994-0218

Re: Weather Network Application #2017-0586-5; Consultation # 2017-365

The City of Barrie would like to provide its support for The Weather Network remaining on the basic television service available to all subscribers. The following motion was adopted on November 20, 2017:

17-G-282 LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE CANADIAN RADIO AND TELEVISION CORPORATION (CRTC) APPLICATION BY THE WEATHER NETWORK

That the City of Barrie provide a letter of support for the Canadian Radio and Television Corporation (CRTC) application by the Weather Network to remain on the basic television service available to all subscribers. (Item for Discussion 8.2, November 13, 2017) (File: A00)

The Weather Network provides a custom local forecast to TV subscribers in more than 1,000 Canadian communities, including Barrie. Weather reports are important to all Canadians, but especially to people in Barrie where we are no stranger to extreme weather events. We know that a snow squall or thunderstorm can occur at moment's notice and can have a serious impact on travel. The Weather Network provides safety, weather and environmental information programming that helps our residents plan and stay safe.

The Weather Network maintains the backbone infrastructure of Canada's national emergency alerting system. This service is critical to keeping Canadians safe in extreme weather. Removing the channel from the basic service would impact their ability to enable these alerts and would also affect their ability to serve some smaller communities.

Changing weather patterns due to climate change will result in more extreme weather in the future. Our residents need an affordable 24/7 weather network to provide up-to-the-minute information so they be best prepared when storms hit.

The basic television service remains the most available, affordable and accessible way for many Canadians to access essential news, information and entertainment services – especially for those who do not have access to, or are not comfortable using, broadband Internet. I support the Weather Network's application to remain part of the basic package for a seven-year licence term, at the same rate they have received since 1993.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jeff Lehman