

# Commence Comcast Franchise Renewal – Res. 32095

Economic Development, Technology, and  
City Light Committee – June 28, 2023



# Cable Franchises

- Governed by federal law, 47 U.S.C. section 542, the Cable Act of 1984.
- SMC 21.60, Seattle Cable Code, requires cable providers to meet technical, customer service, and privacy standards, including the Cable Customer Bill of Rights.
- Current franchises include Comcast and Astound (formerly Wave).

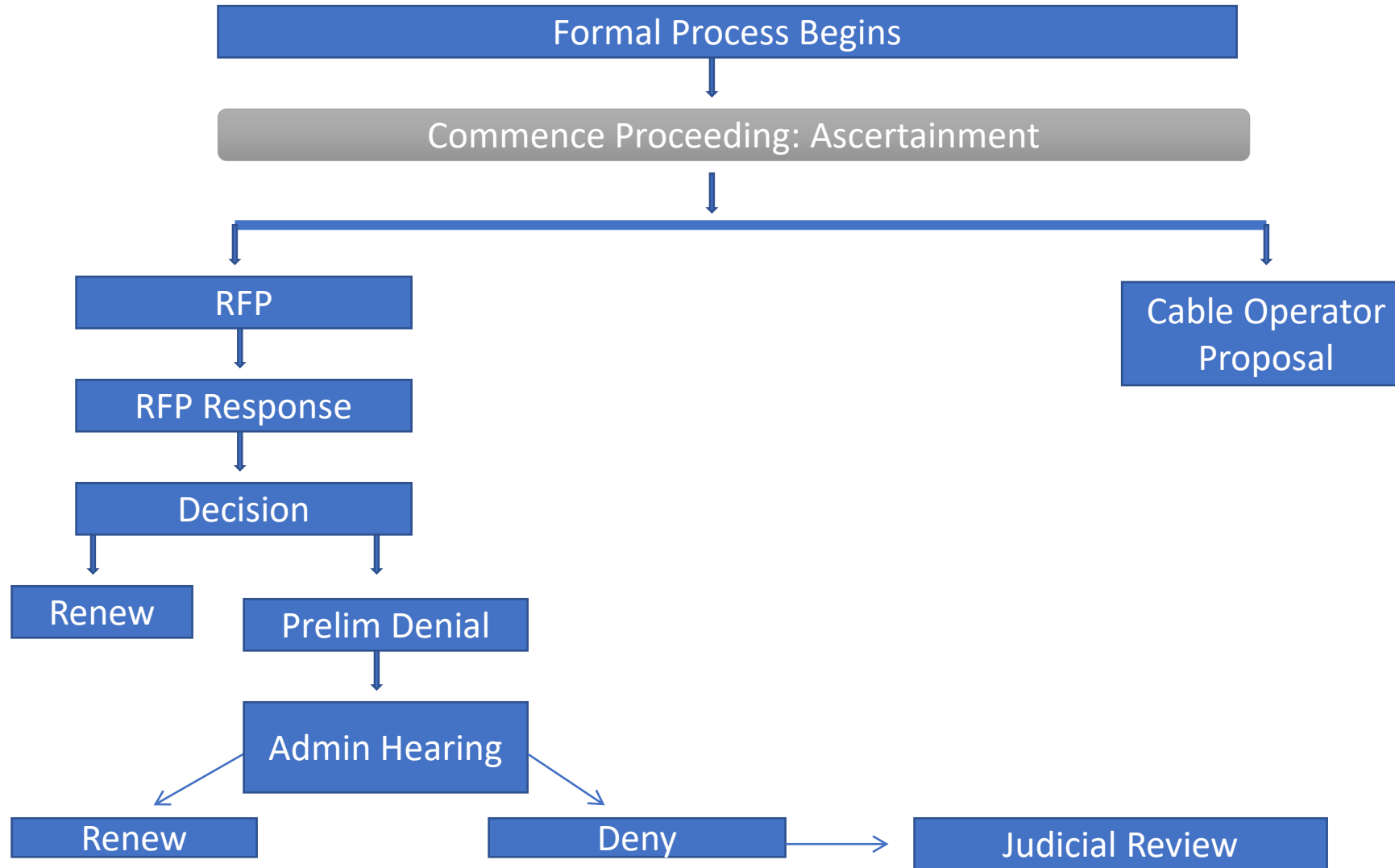


# Cable Franchise Renewals

- Franchise Agreements expire after 10 years.
- Renewal begins 3 years prior to franchise expiration.
- Formal and Informal Renewal Process
  - Processes Run Concurrently
- Majority of Franchises via *Informal Process*
- Must remain mindful and comply with all requirements



# Process Flow



# Resolution: Commencement of proceedings

- No formal guidelines under federal law as to what constitutes an action that “commences a proceeding.”
- The Council Resolution clarifies the City’s intent and ensures that the City has complied with this initial procedural requirement.
- The Resolution also provides notice to the public and an opportunity for public comment.



# Cable Franchise Renewals - Timeline

Action	Comcast	Astound
Renewal Notice Received	2/21/2023	n/a
Commence renewal proceedings by	8/21/2023	TBD
Renewal Period	Jan 2023-Dec 2025	Nov 2024-Oct 2027
<i>Council Ordinance Process Period</i>	<i>July 2025-Dec 2025</i>	<i>June 2027-Oct 2027</i>
Council Approve New Franchise by	Dec 2025	Oct 2027
Franchise Expires	Jan 2026	Nov 2027

