

## CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE MANAGEMENT SERVICE

The Alabama League of Municipalities sponsors a technical services program designed to assist member municipalities with cable franchise management. The goals of the program are to ensure that local governments have access to the expertise required to negotiate for the benefits and services needed in our communities on reasonable terms and conditions. In return for a nominal fee, which is usually based on a municipality's population, cities and towns can obtain the following services:

- Assistance in negotiating new terms and conditions for cable television franchise renewals including the preparation of the franchise document
- Determining companies compliance with existing franchise terms and conditions including franchise fee payment review
- Developing and implementing a community needs assessment to determine the future cable-related needs and interest of cities
- Assistance for electric cities in negotiating pole attachment agreements
- Assistance in the development of public, educational and governmental channels (PEG)
- Assistance with processing request from companies to transfer an existing cable franchise
- Assistance with negotiating new cable franchises and;
- Assistance with the development of institutional networks, if applicable.

The League has contracted with Lilburn, Georgia, based Local Government Services to assist League members in providing these services. Since 1993, Greg Fender, who serves as the program's principal consultant, has assisted over 200 cities in negotiating cable television franchise renewals, transfer requests and pole attachment agreements. He has also assisted numerous cities in responding to right of way issues related to cable and telecommunications franchises. Local Government Services will provide these services in conjunction with the law firm of Moss and Barnett and with the assistance of William F. Pohts, an engineer specializing in the emerging technologies in telecommunications and electronic systems.

"We are excited about the benefits our cities can realize by participating in this program," said League Executive Director, Perry Roquemore "This program provides our municipalities access to experts in the field at a very reasonable cost."

Many Alabama cities and towns have benefited from this service including Albertville, Ashville, Brewton, Brilliant, Calera, Castleberry, Clio, Columbiana, Coosada, Double Springs, Eclectic, Enterprise, Fyffe, Guntersville, Hartselle, Heflin, Hokes Bluff, Irondale, Jackson, Jasper, Leesburg, Lynn, Millbrook, Montgomery, Monroeville, Pelham, Piedmont, Prattville, Rogersville, Sardis City, Sheffield, Southside, Springfield, Steele, Sulligent, Troy, Tuscumbia, Valley, Wadley, and Wetumpka..

**If your city is interested in subscribing for this service or would like more information, please call Greg Fender at 1-800-978-0071**