



New York City Comptroller  
John C. Liu

NEWS RELEASE

PR13-08-146  
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August 6, 2013  
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**COMPTROLLER LIU SEEKS EMERGENCY MEETING  
OF FRANCHISE BOARD ON TIME WARNER CABLE  
BLACKOUT OF CBS**

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NEW YORK, N.Y. – In response to the ongoing blackout of CBS (NYSE: CBS) and Showtime by Time Warner Cable (NYSE: TWC), City Comptroller John C. Liu has asked Mayor Bloomberg to convene an emergency meeting of the Franchise Concession and Review Committee (FCRC) in the next 24 hours to discuss actions to bring an end to the blackout. Comptroller Liu has repeatedly called on Time Warner Cable and CBS to resolve their contract differences without resorting to a blackout that unfairly punishes cable viewers. His letter to the mayor is reproduced below.

August 5, 2013

Hon. Michael Bloomberg  
Mayor  
The City of New York  
City Hall  
New York, N.Y. 10007

Re: Emergency FCRC Meeting

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

As members of the Franchise Concession and Review Committee (FCRC) established by §373 of the New York City Charter, the Mayor and the Comptroller share an obligation to review and enforce cable franchise agreements with the City of New York. On Friday at 5 pm, because of the dispute between New York City Time Warner Cable (TWC) and CBS, more than a million customers lost the ability to watch the programming of CBS and Showtime, services for which they continue to pay.

In order to end the dispute, I ask that you convene an emergency FCRC meeting in the next 24 hours to review TWC’s franchise agreement with New York City. At the meeting, my

representative will urge that the City aggressively pursue any and all possible penalties and enforcement actions that can be levied against TWC, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) A penalty for each day a cable channel is dark;
- (2) Possible termination of TWC's franchise agreement, which is set to expire in 2020; and
- (3) A fair credit for TWC customers.

New York City customers are suffering because of a standoff between two corporate giants. We need to send a strong message to all cable providers that receiving a New York City franchise is a privilege they must not abuse.

Sincerely,

John C. Liu

### **Background**

Liu to Time Warner: End the Blackout Immediately

[http://comptroller.nyc.gov/press/2013\\_releases/pr13-08-145.shtm](http://comptroller.nyc.gov/press/2013_releases/pr13-08-145.shtm)

Liu to Time Warner and CBS: Don't Let Another Blackout Happen

[http://comptroller.nyc.gov/press/2013\\_releases/pr13-08-144.shtm](http://comptroller.nyc.gov/press/2013_releases/pr13-08-144.shtm)

Liu to Time Warner: No More Saber Rattling

[http://comptroller.nyc.gov/press/2013\\_releases/pr13-07-141.shtm](http://comptroller.nyc.gov/press/2013_releases/pr13-07-141.shtm)

Liu to TWC/CBS: Take the Threat off the Table

[http://comptroller.nyc.gov/press/2013\\_releases/pr13-07-140.shtm](http://comptroller.nyc.gov/press/2013_releases/pr13-07-140.shtm)

Liu to TWC/CBS: Come Together Now

[http://comptroller.nyc.gov/press/2013\\_releases/pr13-07-135.shtm](http://comptroller.nyc.gov/press/2013_releases/pr13-07-135.shtm)

Video release of Comptroller Liu's invitation to CBS and Time Warner Cable:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zX1FYsSsXPA&feature=youtu.be>

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