

Timeline for New Public Access TV Channel

February, 2019 - Jake Schumacher will officially retire from the City as full-time UPTV Station Manager, but will return to work at UPTV on a part-time basis at 18 hours/week. His responsibilities would include 24/7 programming of the television channel and mid-week staffing of the office. Jason Liggett will assume the title and duties of UPTV Station Manager, and the position of Production Coordinator would be left vacant. This produces a reduction of 22 staff hours/week.

July 1, 2019 – Jason (with Jake’s assistance) will report on the feasibility and logistics of launching a fifth PEG channel to be used solely as a Public Access channel and staffed by a willing entity chosen by but separate from the City.

July 1, 2019 through January 1, 2020 - Jason and Jake will find the best partner to take over the fifth channel and will work out a transition plan of operating the fifth channel.

Should a partner NOT be found, then we will request that Urbana City Council either increase funding for UPTV (which most likely require cuts elsewhere in the budget) or consent to eliminate Public Access and Educational programming.

July 1, 2020 – If a partner is found, and it is financially and technically feasible, the City will launch the fifth PEG channel. Jake will schedule and promote the fifth channel during the transition period. Jason may take over scheduling the City’s channel (UPTV), or Jake may continue to schedule both during the transition period. The fifth channel will continue to broadcast the full range of Public Access programming. The City’s channel will broadcast Government and Education Access programming. There will be one-time costs to the City to launch the fifth channel, which we estimate to be less than \$5,000 – assuming the City donates its old broadcast server and buys a new one. (Buying a new UPTV broadcast server is on the equipment replacement plan for FY 2023, so this would need to be moved up.)

December 31, 2020 – The City will eliminate Jake’s part-time position, thus producing another permanent reduction in UPTV staff time of 18 hours a week, as the chosen organization fully assumes control of the fifth channel. The City will continue to run its own channel broadcasting Government and Education Access programs, with Jason as Station Manager.