

City of Topeka Policy

City4 Statement of Policy



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is City4?

A: City4 is the government access cable television channel for the City of Topeka.

Q: What is the difference between cablecast television and broadcast television?

A: Broadcast television is an analog or digital signal transmitted via the airwaves to your antenna or satellite dish. Cablecast television is an analog or digital signal sent via cable or fiber lines provided by the local cable franchise holder. In Topeka, our cable service provider is currently Cox Communications.

Q: What is a government access channel?

A: The Federal Communications Commission established three types of non-profit cable television stations that franchise operators normally provide to a local community at no charge as part of the franchise agreement. They are: 1) Public access, 2) Educational access, and 3) Government access. These PEG stations are governed by different FCC rules than the rules pertaining to commercial stations. Normally all three PEG stations are present in a local cable market as a sort of public service, in order to provide a broad spectrum of non-profit programming.

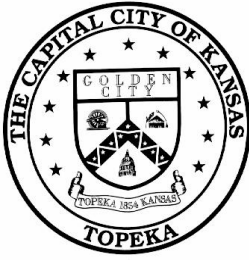
Q: Does Topeka have all three PEG stations?

A: No. When cable television was first established in Topeka in 1984, the contract with the franchise provider established two Educational stations (operated by USD 501 and Washburn University) and a Government access station (City4.) There has never been a Public access station in the greater Topeka cable market, nor is there one under the current contract (which expires 03/09/08.)

Q: What kind of programming does a government access station provide?

A: By FCC definition, a government access station may be used only for government news and information. Our City4 programming includes:

- Live cablecasts of City meetings, such as the City Council and Topeka/Shawnee County Planning Commission meetings;
- Taped cablecasts of the Mayor's Press Conferences, State of the City speech, etc.;



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City4 Statement of Policy

- Video documentaries and infomercials explaining City government projects, activities, and services;
- A message board of public safety notices and messages about City government projects, activities, and services (approximately 360 messages/loop/hour;)
- Public safety information.

Q: Does City4 run any regularly-scheduled programming (as opposed to live meetings) that is produced by outside sources?

A: Outside productions may be shown only if they promote public safety or City government projects, activities, or services. In cases where questions arise as to the appropriateness of program content, the Public Affairs Division, in consultation with the City Attorney, will make the final determination.

Q: Who operates City4 television?

A: The City's Public Affairs Division, consisting of two full-time and three part-time employees, oversees the content and quality of City4 cablecasts. Cox Cablevision provides and maintains the cable distribution network, which delivers our signal to approximately 40,000 households in and around Topeka.

Q: How is City4 funded?

A: Funding for City4 comes from two sources. All personnel and daily operational costs are budgeted as part of the City's general fund through the Information Technology Department, Public Affairs Division. Major equipment costs are paid for through a fund established for this purpose by Cox Cablevision.

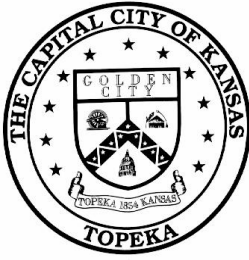
Q: Why does City4 charge for our services?

A: Our Public Affairs annual budget allows for certain fixed expenses and fixed production costs. Any expenses above that, such as requests for videotaped copies of City4 productions through the Kansas Open Records Act, must be recouped through a fee-for-service plan. The City4 fee schedule is comparable to other commercial production houses. Cost estimates are gladly furnished by City4 staff.

Q: What are the technical capabilities of City4?

A: City4 underwent a major equipment renovation during 2000 and can now offer:

- Digital camera, allowing us to record digitally
- Non-linear editing equipment, including special effects, graphics, etc.
- Analog editing system
- Approximately 100 pre-recorded selections of music for message board background
- One studio for live cablecasts (City Council chambers)
- One small studio for taped productions
- A programming suite with eight decks in three formats: digital, Beta, DVD and SVHS



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- On-line computer to create/edit message board
- Automated switching system for 24/7 programming
- Live streaming video through the City's website

Q. Where can I get City4's current TV Guide and other information about City4?

A. The current TV Guide and other information about City4 may be obtained by calling 785/368-3754, emailing rmaus@topeka.org, or on the City's website, www.Topeka.org.
