

**From:** Larry Lamborn

**Subject:** Moving forward on City Code (policy) development on the optical cable problem

I want to thank you and DSD Director Rod Sanchez for organizing Friday's meeting on the challenge many of us face regarding the optical cables. You got all the stakeholders together and -- albeit the session was mildly contentious -- I do believe some light came from the sparks. Again, congratulations on running a productive meeting.

Our board member, Alison Band, has sent you some suggestions which perhaps might be explored at our next working group meeting. Ms. Band, who is an engineer by training, has given considerable thought to these issues. She is our Neighborhood Association's "point person" for dealing with the optical cable people.

Basically, all we are asking for is to be treated with a tiny smidgeon of respect. In our Neighborhood, no one will come out with a shotgun to run a Time Warner or AT&T crew off their land. Indeed, another member of board, Mr. Kim Pettit, a veteran attorney in practice for thirty years, has written a fine article on easements that will appear in the August NCTONA Notes. But unfortunately, some excavation crews simply show up unannounced at odd times, dig holes, and then leave them for unacceptably long periods to be filled or remediated by others. I would be happy to show you photographs if you wish.

Our Neighborhood consists heavily of retirement-age folks, and we respect the proprietary rights of the companies. But we also have great respect for the rights of property owners -- us. We therefore expect that the Googles, Time Warners, and AT&Ts observe at least three operating principles:

1. Give us timely written notice when they are going to dig;
2. Complete the excavation work as quickly as possible; and
3. Leave the property exactly the way it was found.

I believe you would agree that these are reasonable expectations.

From the City perspective, I also believe that an Ordinance should require all new cable being laid to be mapped using GIS or other technical means. I understand that in former days companies simply "pot-holed" areas and dropped cables and wires "God knows where" and that mapping these earlier deposits is difficult. This point was made at the meeting. That having been said, it should be a requirement for anyone who is digging (this includes SAWS and CPS) to map and report earlier cables when they are discovered.

I completely agree with Rod Sanchez that we (the City) must gain the upper hand on this cable laying, or it is certain that costly accidents WILL occur (that could otherwise have been avoided.)

Again, thank you for your invitation to a most productive meeting. We of NCTONA wish to encourage you in your drafting of a new City Ordinance governing the laying of cables, pipes,

conduits, and any other underground devices. Please include us in future meetings. We look forward to your draft and will do all in our power to assist you.

With every good wish,

G. L. Lamborn

President

North Central Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association (NCTONA)

Chairman

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