

CITY OF PEABODY

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR EDWARD A. BETTENCOURT, JR.

Mayor Bettencourt Sheds Light on Lack of Comcast Alternatives in Peabody

Mayor Edward A. Bettencourt, Jr. says he is asked on an almost daily basis why Peabody is not home to any alternative providers of cable TV, high-speed internet and telephone service. Conspiracy theories abound but it turns out the answer is simple and straight forward.

“At this time, no other provider of the phone / cable / internet trio of services has expressed an interest in coming to Peabody,” Mayor Bettencourt said. “We would like residents to have a choice of providers and would certainly welcome other options. At this time however, none of the alternatives to Comcast has stepped up with a proposal.”

Mayor Bettencourt said he understands Peabody resident’s frustration with the lack of choice in cable / internet / phone service. After all, consumers can choose from a wide array of mobile phones, calling plans, and service providers, as well as choice among other communications and multi-media technology. Residents are also inundated with slick TV ads for Comcast competitors and naturally wonder what they are missing both in terms of service and price.

“I absolutely understand their frustrations,” Mayor Bettencourt said. “Having a choice helps assure we get the best value for our money. When there is no competition in the marketplace, people feel like they are at the mercy of a monopoly. In the final analysis however, we cannot force these competitors to set up shop in Peabody against their will.”

With some of the best known cable / internet / phone alternatives out of reach for now, Mayor Bettencourt says the city may turn its attention to niche providers who offer similar services on an individual or dual basis rather than the heavily marketed three-in-one portfolio.

“We recognize the benefit of having more than one provider of cable, phone and internet service,” said Mayor Bettencourt. “If another provider sees a market in Peabody, we are all ears.”

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