

**TOWN OF FAIRFAX
STAFF REPORT**

Date: August 1, 2012
To: Mayor and Members of the Town Council
From: Larry Bragman, Council Member
Subject: Discussion of status of cablecasting and webstreaming of Council meetings –
Bragman

Tonight's meeting marks the beginning of the Town of Fairfax's entrance into the digital broadcast age. Through a generous grant provided by the Marin Telecommunications Agency, our meeting place has become a "distributed media center". All of the cameras and other equipment have been paid for by this grant and will increase the versatility and value of this facility.

The four cameras installed at the Women's Club will enable a trained operator from the Community Media Center of Marin (CMCM) to record and/or live broadcast our public meetings and other events. Meetings can be broadcast by the G channel which is produced and maintained by CMCM. We will eventually also be able to webcast meetings and make them available for viewing by interested members of the public.

CMCM will be working with Fairfax to archive the video recordings of our meetings on a free hosting website for public viewing. We will link this archive to our existing website to facilitate fast and simple connectivity over the web. Hopefully, our staff will eventually time stamp agenda items so that viewers can go directly to the item of interest by simply moving a cursor to the appropriate point in the recording.

Video broadcast and recording of meetings will allow members of the public to observe local government and encourage community involvement in our decision making process. Local government always makes better decisions when it receives greater input from residents and this will provide greater opportunity for residents to be aware of the decisions being considered. It is also my hope that the cameras may remind all of us, public and electeds alike, to aspire toward greater clarity and civility in our deliberations.