

Ordinance No. 843-25

**An Ordinance Amending Bel Air Town Code
Chapter A500: Cable Television Franchises
Article II: Verizon Franchise Agreement**

WHEREAS, Maryland Code Local Government Articles Section § 1-708(c) and Section § 5-204(d) authorizes governing bodies of a municipality to (1) grant a franchise for a cable television system that uses a public right-of-way; (2) impose franchise fees; (3) establish rates applicable to a franchise; and (4) adopt rules and regulations for the operation of a franchise; and

WHEREAS, Town of Bel Air Maryland Code Chapter A500: Cable Television Franchises, Article II: Verizon Franchise Agreement was last enacted by the Board of Town Commissioners on October 6, 2008, and became effective on October 27, 2008, by Ordinance No. 714-08 for a term of fifteen (15) years, expiring on October 27, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Town of Bel Air and Verizon Maryland LLC mutually agreed to extend the terms and conditions of the existing Verizon Cable Franchise Agreement, until a new cable franchise becomes effective; and

WHEREAS, Verizon Maryland LLC has applied for a new five (5) year non-exclusive franchise for the operation of a cable communications system within the corporate municipal limits of the Town of Bel Air; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Town Commissioners wishes to amend Chapter A500: Cable Television Franchises, Article II. Verizon Franchise Agreement, Section § A500-2 Franchise granted, of the Bel Air Town Code and to grant Verizon Maryland LLC a new, non-exclusive five (5) year franchise and to incorporate the terms of a cable franchise renewal agreement to be executed by the Town of Bel Air and Verizon Maryland LLC; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bel Air has provided all required public hearings under federal law and regulations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Town Commissioners that the Town of Bel Air Town Code Chapter A500: Cable Television Franchises, Article II. Verizon Franchise Agreement, Section § A500-2 Franchise granted, shall be amended as follows:

§ A500-2. Franchise granted.

Verizon Maryland LLC, ~~Inc.~~, is granted a nonexclusive franchise to construct, install, maintain, extend, and operate a cable communications system within the Town of Bel Air, Maryland, for a period of ~~15~~ **5** years from the effective date of this ordinance.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that Ordinance No. 714-08 enacted on October 6, 2008, and effective on October 27, 2008, is hereby repealed and this Ordinance, in its entirety, including the new Cable Franchise Renewal Agreement (included herein as Exhibit A), is substituted in Chapter A500. Cable Television Franchises, Article II. Verizon Franchise Agreement, Section § A500-2 Franchise granted, of the Bel Air Town Code, in place and stead of the repealed Ordinance.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Ordinance shall become effective on the twenty-first (21st) day after passage unless petitioned to referendum.

FIRST PUBLIC HEARING:	June 16, 2025
INTRODUCTION:	July 21, 2025
SECOND PUBLIC HEARING:	July 21, 2025
THIRD PUBLIC HEARING:	August 18, 2025
ENACTMENT:	TBD
EFFECTIVE:	TBD
AYES:	TBD
NAYS:	TBD
ABSENT:	TBD

Paula S. Etting, Chair
Board of Town Commissioners

Michael L. Krantz, Town Clerk