



## The Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton

### Resolution R2 – 2008

**A RESOLUTION** of the Mayor and Commissioners in Support of Consumers in the Broadcast Digital (“DTV”) Transition.

**WHEREAS**, in 1996 Congress mandated that full power over-the-air broadcast television stations return the analog spectrum currently in use to the federal government, and begin broadcasting exclusively in digital format effective February 17, 2009, an event referred to as the “Broadcast Digital Television (‘DTV’) Transition”; and

**WHEREAS**, to facilitate the transition to digital television, Congress loaned each full powered television broadcaster an extra channel of spectrum, so that a digital format could be broadcast simultaneously with the analog format until the 2009 transition is complete; at that time the analog channel would be returned to the government for resale or enhanced communications for emergency services providers such as police, fire and emergency rescue; and

**WHEREAS**, the transition from analog to digital signal represents the most significant advance in television technology since the introduction of color television in the 1960’s; and

**WHEREAS**, the benefits of digital television are clear; sharper pictures, superior sound quality, and additional programming choices; and

**WHEREAS**, the DTV transition requires all full power over-the-air broadcast television stations nationwide to convert their service from the analog transmission to digital format as of February 17, 2009, and to cease providing analog services as of that date; and

**WHEREAS**, any TV set that is not connected to cable or another video service, or does not have a built in digital tuner, will require a “digital-to-analog converter box” to continue receiving and displaying local broadcast TV stations after the DVT Transition occurs; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government is offering consumers \$40.00 coupons to be applied toward the purchase of these converter boxes to assist the estimated 48 million households with roof-top or “rabbit ear” antennas; however, these coupons are available on a first-come first-served basis up to a maximum of two per household capped at a national outlay of \$1.5 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, it is anticipated that millions of residents may not be aware of the availability of these coupons to convert analog televisions that will cease to work on February 17, 2009 unless they are connected to a “digital-to-analog converter box”; and

**WHEREAS**, we are aware that any older analog TV set that a consumer has connected to the local cable system will continue to receive local broadcast TV signals after the DTV Transition, but millions of Americans own televisions not connected to cable or another video service and will require “digital-to-analog converter boxes” to work properly.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton urge all residents to become more informed about the upcoming DTV Transition and to apply for their \$40.00 discount coupons by either calling the Coupon Program 24-hour hotline at 1-888-DTV-2099 (1-888-388-2099) (voice) or 1-877-530-2634 (TTY) or by visiting the Website at <http://www.dtv2009.gov> , and further, to assist their neighbors and fellow citizens, such as seniors and those with disabilities, to do the same.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution shall be certified and forwarded to all local media and to the Maryland Municipal League.

READ AND PASSED THIS 18th DAY OF JUNE, 2008

**Mayor and Commissioners  
of the Town of Elkton**

**Mayor Joseph L. Fisona  
Commissioner Charles H. Givens, Sr.  
Commissioner Mary Jo Jablonski  
Commissioner Earl M. Piner, Sr.  
Commissioner C. Gary Storke**