

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Tim Flaherty, Mayor

FROM: Kim Lehmkuhl, City Clerk

DATE: February 11, 2014

SUBJECT: Live streaming City Council meetings

The Granicus software that the City uses to host archived video of City Council and Planning Commission meetings, publicly accessible via the [Media Center](#) on the City's website, includes several features the City is not currently utilizing. First and foremost among these is Granicus' live broadcasting capability, designed to permit members of the public who are unable or unwilling to attend public meetings in person to participate remotely in real time.

This feature could be enabled at no out-of-pocket or staff time cost to the City, by following two simple steps in the software's administrator interface: (1) check the currently unchecked "Broadcast event" box noted below; and

**Edit Event**

Name:

Date & Time:  at

Duration:

Recurrence:  Every 2 weeks on Monday effective 8/12/2013 through 8/10/2015 [Edit](#)

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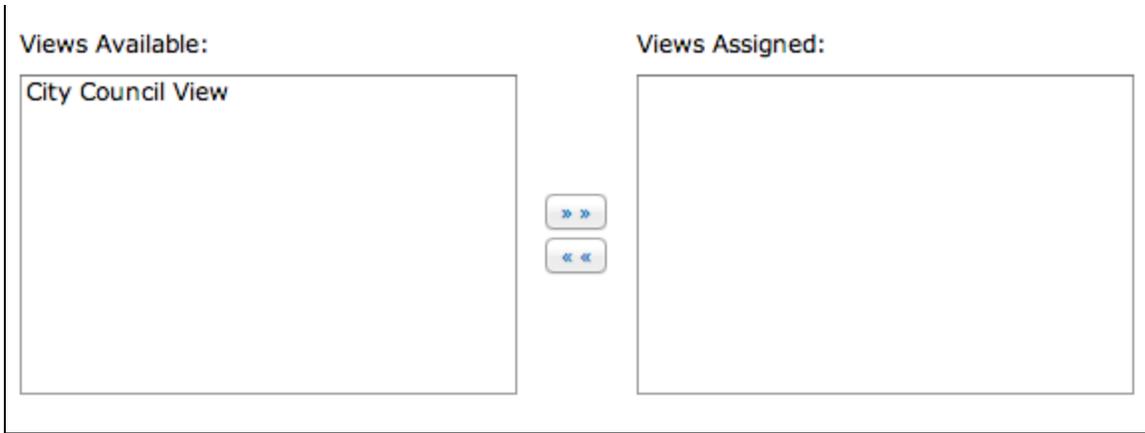
Description:

[Add Keywords](#) [Add Location](#)

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Media Options:  Automatically start recording  
 Broadcast event  
 Record event

(2) "assign" the City Council View noted below, by selecting it and moving it to the "Views Assigned" box.



Granicus is widely used by neighboring jurisdictions, and 9 of 18 (50%) Contra Costa cities and towns are currently using Granicus to live stream (deliver live over the Internet) video of regular council meetings.

Lafayette is using Granicus to live stream audio of regular council meetings, since it does not record its meetings on video. Two additional cities (Antioch and Concord) are live streaming regular Council meetings using software vendors other than Granicus. All in all, 12 of 18 (66.67%) of Contra Costa cities and towns are live streaming; of those that are not, three (Clayton, Danville, and San Pablo) appear to have no video capabilities at all, and three (Moraga, Oakley, and San Ramon) are hosting archived video on alternate platforms.

**Of cities that (1) use Granicus and (2) have videorecording capability, only Pleasant Hill is not currently utilizing the software’s live broadcasting feature.**

The following table provides additional detail regarding the livestreaming practices in place throughout the County. The table also notes (where this information was ascertainable from the jurisdiction’s website) whether each city/town’s council meetings are broadcast live on television instead of, or in addition to, live on the Internet (Pleasant Hill City Council meetings are on a delayed television broadcast).

Finally, the table also notes the date and time of each jurisdiction’s next council meeting in order to highlight the added value of Internet – particularly mobile – access to contemporaneous council proceedings for those who live in one city and work, shop, or use services in another and would like to participate in public meetings in both. Pleasant Hill’s next Council meeting, for instance, is scheduled to take place at the same time as Lafayette’s.

**Contra Costa County**

<b>City/Town</b>	<b>Next Council meeting</b>	<b>Live streaming</b>	<b>Live television</b>
Antioch	Tues. Feb. 11 (7:00 p.m.)	<a href="#">YES</a> : proprietary site	YES: Comcast channel 24
Brentwood	Tues. Feb. 11 (7:00 p.m.)	<a href="#">YES</a> : Granicus	
Clayton	Tues. Feb. 18 (7:00 p.m.)	<a href="#">NO</a> (and no archived video)	
Concord	Tues. Feb. 11 (6:30 p.m.)	<a href="#">YES</a> : Swagit	YES: Comcast channel 28, Astound 29, AT&T U-Verse 99
Danville	Tues. Mar. 4 (7:30 p.m.)	<a href="#">NO</a> (and no archived video)	
El Cerrito	Tues. Feb. 18 (7:00 p.m.)	<a href="#">YES</a> : Granicus	YES: Comcast channel 28
Hercules	Tues. Feb. 11 (7:00 p.m.)	<a href="#">YES</a> : Granicus	YES: Comcast channel 28
Lafayette	Mon. Feb. 24 (7:00 p.m.)	<a href="#">YES</a> (audio only, and archived audio only): Granicus	
Martinez	Wed. Feb. 18 (7:00 p.m.)	<a href="#">YES</a> : Granicus	NO: Meetings are televised on Friday following Wednesday's meeting on Comcast channel 28, U-Verse 99 at 7:30 p.m
Moraga	Wed. Feb. 12 (7:00 p.m.)	<a href="#">NO</a> (archived audio only)	
Oakley	Tues. Feb. 11 (6:30 p.m.)	<a href="#">NO</a> (archived video only, uploaded to city's external <a href="#">Vimeo account</a> )	
Orinda	Wed. Feb. 18 (7:00 p.m.)	<a href="#">YES</a> : Granicus	
Pinole	Wed. Feb. 18 (7:00 p.m.)	<a href="#">YES</a> : Granicus	YES: Comcast channel 26
Pittsburg	Wed. Feb. 18 (7:00 p.m.)	<a href="#">YES</a> : Granicus	
Richmond	Wed. Feb. 18 (6:30 p.m.)	<a href="#">YES</a> : Granicus	YES: Comcast channel 28
San Pablo	Wed. Feb. 18 (6:00 p.m.)	<a href="#">NO</a> (and no archived video)	
San Ramon	Tues. Feb. 11 (7:00 p.m.)	<a href="#">NO</a> : (archived video only, via PBTech)	
Walnut Creek	Wed. Feb. 18 (7:00 p.m.)	<a href="#">YES</a> : Granicus	YES: Comcast channel 28

			(26 in Rossmoor), Astound 29, AT&T U-Verse 99
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To provide additional context for comparison, the following table captures the same data points for major California cities outside of Contra Costa. 10 of 10 live stream regular city council meetings, and 9 of 10 do so via Granicus. Because these cities are all significantly larger than Pleasant Hill (Berkeley, the smallest, has a population of over 115,000), they have in many cases implemented further technological innovations to help ensure council meetings are accessible to their diverse and busy constituents.

For instance, Berkeley’s council meetings are broadcast on local Pacifica Radio affiliate KPFB. Los Angeles maintains four phone lines permitting members of the public to call in from anywhere to listen to any public meeting live. Los Angeles and San Jose provide both video and audio live streaming on their city websites. At least Berkeley and Oakland also provide video closed captioning. These details are included to illustrate the fact that live streaming is no longer considered new or experimental technology: the practice is (1) the norm among Pleasant Hill’s smaller immediate neighbors, and (2) a baseline service provided to/expected by the public in all significant population centers in the state.

**Population Centers Outside Contra Costa County**

City	Next Council meeting	Live streaming	Live television
Sacramento	Tues. Feb. 11 (6:00 p.m.)	<a href="#">YES</a> : Granicus	YES: Comcast channel 14
Berkeley	Tues. Feb. 11 (7:00 p.m.)	<a href="#">YES</a> : Granicus	YES: Live and/or taped coverage of most public meetings can also be viewed on cable television Public Access Stations B-TV Channel 28 and C-TV Channel 33; live audio is broadcast on KPFB Radio 89.3
Oakland	Wed. Feb 18 (5:30 p.m.)	<a href="#">YES</a> : Granicus	
San Francisco	Tues. Feb. 11 (2:00 p.m.)	<a href="#">YES</a> : Granicus	YES: Comcast channel 26
San Jose	Tues. Feb. 11 (9:00 a.m.)	<a href="#">YES</a> : Granicus (separate live video & live audio options)	YES: Comcast channel 26
Fresno	Thurs. Feb 13 (8:30 a.m.)	<a href="#">YES</a> : proprietary site	YES: Comcast channel 96 and AT&T U-Verse 99

Bakersfield	Wed. Feb. 12 (3:30 p.m.)	<a href="#">YES</a> : Granicus	YES: Brighthouse Network channel 16 AT&T U-Verse 99
Los Angeles	Tues. Feb. 11 (10:00 a.m.)	<a href="#">YES</a> : Granicus (separate live video & <a href="#">live audio</a> options)	YES: Channel 35 (LA CityView); “Councilphone” also allows the public to listen to live coverage of the Los Angeles City Public Meetings from any phone
Long Beach	Tues. Feb. 11 (5:00 p.m.)	<a href="#">YES</a> : Granicus	YES: Charter channel 3, Verizon FiOS 21
San Diego	Tues. Feb. 11 (10:00 a.m.)	<a href="#">YES</a> : Granicus	YES: Cox and TimeWarnerCable channel 24

In each Contra Costa County jurisdiction that provides live streaming, a review of council rules, policies, and procedures short of statute (where available online), and a review of the relevant portions of their municipal codes, revealed no provisions specific to the practice, and no clear indication that adoption of live streaming had prompted any particular amendment(s).

Even cities with unusually detailed rules defining the limits of the public participation process and specifying sanctions for violations of decorum – such as [Martinez](#) and [Orinda](#) – do not indicate that these rules are necessary simply because council meetings are broadcast live. (Another city with similarly detailed public participation rules – [Oakley](#) – does not live stream.) Beyond Contra Costa, the rules in [Berkeley](#), known for its particularly contentious council meetings, likewise make no mention of broadcasting live over either television, radio, or the Internet. The section of [Berkeley’s municipal code](#) pertinent to broadcast of meetings (§2.06.100) states only that the city council and several other agency and board meetings “shall be recorded, televised and video-streamed live as well as archived for replay,” with other agencies and boards to be added as resources permit.

**Recommendation: Notice discussion of live streaming regular City Council meetings for next regularly scheduled Council meeting on February 24, 2014.**