**Answer to question regarding cable companies charging deposits/requiring proof of creditworthiness/running credit reports**

PSB Rule 3.202 (Conditions for Taking of Deposits) applies to cable companies as well:

(A) Any utility **or cable television company** which requires a deposit from a ratepayer as

a precondition of initiating or continuing utility or cable television service, shall:

(1) establish the deposit amount based on the guidelines set forth in Section 3.204;

(2) pay interest on the deposit, as required under subsection (B);

(3) refund the deposit promptly as provided in Section 3.205.

(4) advise any ratepayer required to make a deposit of the reasons for the

requirements, of the right to pay it in installments, and of the calculations which

the utility or cable television company has used to support the amount of the

deposit;

(5) for an account which serves a primary residence, offer the ratepayer for whom

the payment presents a burden the opportunity to pay a deposit, at a minimum,

in three equal payments with one third due immediately, one third due within

thirty days, and the final third due within sixty days; and

(6) inform the ratepayer that the necessity for a deposit or its amount may be

disputed by making a complaint to the Consumer Affairs and Public Information

Division of the Department of Public Service. The ratepayer shall be informed

of the Division's address and telephone numbers, including its toll-free

telephone number.

The PUC rules do not address cable television companies running a credit check on either residential or business consumers as a precondition of establishing cable television service. CAPI advocates for cable companies to follow PUC rule 3.200 regarding Ratepayer Deposits as an alternative to requiring a satisfactory credit report in all instances.