



**COMMUNITY TELECAST, INC.**

P. O. BOX 11558  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68111  
CTIOMAHA@AOL.COM  
COMMUNITYTELECAST.COM  
402-934-1100

**We broadcast the Community!™**

*Community Telecast, Inc. (CTI22), [IRS 501 (c)(3)] has been the only broadcast cable television company in the metro Omaha area and within 18 states to focus on the community. For our general operations we receive NO tax support from the federal government, State of Nebraska, or City of Omaha, and we receive no revenue based on Franchise Fee from the cable provider. We are supported only through membership fees and donations.*

## **PRESS RELEASE - September 2, 2011**

CTI22's recent broadcast of the beating of Mr. Wagner by Omaha Police is not the first time such content has been broadcast on CTI22. Additionally, CTI22 is the only television station in metro Omaha to dedicate "prime time" non-commercial coverage to the subject of the Police Auditor Position. However, in light of the continuation of such incidents, which primarily impact people of color, as Omaha's only community-based broadcaster, CTI22 is hereby prompted to pursue a different broadcast approach.

At CTI22, we believe the clear majority of law enforcement officers act without bias, without prejudice. Most importantly, the treatment of "people" by the Omaha Police should not be a "racial issue," but unfortunately, time and time again, Police Departments all across the U.S. continue to make race an issue, and this is not an opinion, it's a fact as documented by the U.S. Department of Justice, "Bureau of Justice Statistics," Revised 03/12/08:

- On June 30, 2006, an estimated 4.8% of all black men were in prison or jail, compared to 1.9% of Hispanic men and 0.7% of white men.
- More than 11% of black males age 25 to 34 were incarcerated.
- Black women were incarcerated in prison or jail at nearly 4 times the rate of white women and more than twice the rate of Hispanic women.
- Blacks were incarcerated at 4.8 times the rate of whites.
- About 1 in every 123 blacks was incarcerated on June 30, 2006, compared to 1 in every 353 Hispanics and 1 in every 588 whites.

**BACKGROUND:** Beginning in December 2008, CTI22 offered broadcast time to the City of Omaha, the Omaha Police Department, and to the Omaha Police Officers Association to showcase a robust, objective, positive, and candid portrait of the Omaha Police Department. All of CTI22's attempts in this regard have been unsuccessful. CTI22 also offered a counter-proposal to the creation of an "Independent Citizen Advocate" position; and responses were received from only two City Council Members, Suttle and Gardandt, and but received no response from the OPD, OPOA.

On February 19, 2009, CTI22 meet with then Chief Eric Buske and Deputy Chief Hayes regarding an opportunity to broadcast a positive showcase of the Omaha Police Department; Buske stated OPD did not have a budget to produce the program and would not permit any TV stations to have "final cut" authority over the broadcast. CTI22 immediately informed Chief Buske that CTI22 would produce and broadcast the program at no cost, and that OPD will have "final cut" authority over the program.

In an email of August 5, 2009 retiring Police Chief Eric Buske informed CTI22 he would pass along his support of the concept of an OPD broadcast to his successor.

After providing Chief Hayes a few months to acclimate into his new role, CTI22 followed-up with Chief Hayes regarding an OPD broadcast. As stated in a letter to Chief Hayes dated November 20, 2009, CTI22 welcomes an opportunity to broadcast a positive showcase of the Omaha Police Department - at no cost. As stated previously, OPD will have final-cut over the broadcast, with pre-and-final approval by the Omaha Police Department, including legal review and approval by the Office of the City Attorney. CTI22 will not broadcast any OPD program without prior approval from OPD. CTI22 can broadcast a weekly, monthly, quarterly or special event programs. CTI22 received no immediate feedback from the OPD, or to our follow on May 26, 2010.

In an email of April 8, 2011, CTI22 informed Chief Hayes that beginning May 2011, CTI22 will randomly and openly solicit input (audio, video, text, etc.) from citizens throughout greater Omaha about the Omaha Police Department.

Consistent with CTI22's broadcast practices and FCC regulations, CTI22 will broadcast all content "as is" and will not edit any content received (with the exception of editing-out all profanity and pornography). Given that the program will not be sponsored or produced by OPD, CTI22 will exercise all legal rights (First Amendment) pertaining to broadcast. You should anticipate that citizens of Omaha would send CTI22 audio/video content, which CTI22 will broadcast, that will present a positive or negative image of the Omaha Police Department.

CTI22 delayed the broadcast of, "Omaha Police" program due to other broadcast priorities; however, in light of the beating of Mr. Wagner, CTI22 will begin accepting all video content for broadcast on Thursdays from 8:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Additionally, at no cost to the community, CTI22 will also record content from citizens who do not have access to video cameras for subsequent broadcast. Notably, although CTI22 will broadcast content audio, video, and text "as is," but with a disclaimer that content providers are not exempt from the legal risk of libel and slander, etc.

Sincerely,



Trip Reynolds  
General Manager

c: Omaha City Council  
Local Broadcast Media

CTI22 is **public-accessible** to all of Omaha!

**DID YOU KNOW?** As reported to the Omaha City Council in April 2010 [<http://www.cti22.org/franchise.htm>], at any given time CTI22's broadcast audience ranges from 13% to 20% of Cox subscribers!

CTI22 broadcasts more of the following content than all other metro area TV stations combined: public service announcements promoting metro Omaha community-based organizations, events, and businesses; more original programming involving elected officials; more original, Omaha-based programming for African-American, Latino, Native American, Asian, and other ethnic groups; and more original, Omaha-based religious programming. **We Broadcast the Community!**™