

INTRODUCED: September 13, 2021

A RESOLUTION No. 2021-R068

To express the Council’s support for the City of Richmond to become a “gigabit city” and to request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be created a plan to bring reliable and affordable internet connectivity, with speeds at 1,000 megabits per second, to public spaces and to all residents of the City of Richmond.

Patrons – Mr. Addison, Ms. Lambert and Ms. Lynch

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: SEP 27 2021 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, through a press release dated January 18, 2013, the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission established the “Gigabit City Challenge,” which called for the establishment of at least one gigabit community of internet connectivity in all 50 states by the year 2015 for the purpose of accelerating “the creation of a critical mass of markets and innovation hubs with ultra-fast Internet speeds;” and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2021, the City of Norfolk, Virginia announced that the City of Norfolk would be taking steps to make the City of Norfolk a “Gigabit City;” and

WHEREAS, the Council is of the opinion that the City of Richmond, like the City of Norfolk, would benefit from becoming a “Gigabit City” where the residents of the City would

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: SEP 27 2021 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

have affordable access to the internet with speeds at 1,000 megabits per second within their homes and public spaces; and

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Council, a plan for bringing the aforementioned level of reliable and affordable internet connectivity to all City residents should be developed; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Richmond that the Council support efforts to cause the City of Richmond to become a “gigabit city” in which all residents of the City of Richmond have affordable access to the internet with speeds at 1,000 megabits per second within their homes and public spaces, and request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be created a plan to bring such a level of reliable and affordable internet connectivity to all residents of the City of Richmond.

NOW, THEREFORE,

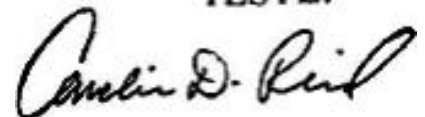
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

That the Council of the City of Richmond hereby supports efforts to cause the City of Richmond to become a “gigabit city” in which all residents of the City of Richmond have affordable access to the internet with speeds at 1,000 megabits per second within their homes and public spaces.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Council of the City of Richmond hereby requests that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be created a plan to bring aforementioned level of reliable and affordable internet connectivity to public spaces and to all residents of the City of Richmond.

**A TRUE COPY:
TESTE:**



City Clerk



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

RECEIVED
By B L Fore at 2:38 pm, Sep 03, 2021

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

Ordinance/Resolution Request

TO Haskell C. Brown, III, Interim Richmond City Attorney
Richmond Office of the City Attorney

THROUGH Joyce L. Davis
Interim Council Chief of Staff

FROM William E. Echelberger, Jr, Council Budget Analyst

COPY Andreas D. Addison, 1st District Representative
Tabrica C. Rentz, Interim Deputy City Attorney
Daniel Wagner, 1st District Liaison on

DATE September 3, 2021

PAGE/s 1 of 2

TITLE Resolution – Gigabit City

This is a request for the drafting of an **Ordinance** **Resolution**

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

Andreas D. Addison, 1st District
Representative

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Finance and Economic Development
Committee

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

The patron requests a resolution to:

1. Express Council's support for the City of Richmond to become a gigabit city, in which every resident has affordable access to internet with speeds at 1,000 megabits per second within their homes and in public spaces, such as libraries, public parks, schools, government buildings and offices, etc., and
2. Request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be created a plan to bring this level of reliable and affordable connectivity to all Richmond residents.

BACKGROUND

Summary:

- In 2013 then FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski established the Gigabit City Challenge, and called for at least one gigabit community in all 50 states by 2015 to accelerate the creation of a critical mass of markets and innovation hubs with ultra-fast Internet speeds.
- On April 22, 2021 the City of Norfolk announced that it would become a Gigabit City.
- The patron believes that becoming a gigabit city will benefit the residents and businesses of the City of Richmond.
- Additional details and background information can be found in the attachments.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact Yes No

Budget Amendment Required Yes No

Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact

The proposed resolution will not, in and of itself, result in an expenditure or revenue change. Implementation of a final program may have a future fiscal impact.

Attachment/s Yes No

Richmond City Council Ordinance/Resolution Request Form/updated 10.5.2012 /srs



NEWS

Federal Communications Commission
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Washington, D. C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 18, 2013

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Justin Cole, 202-418-8191
Email: justin.cole@fcc.gov

FCC CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI ISSUES GIGABIT CITY CHALLENGE TO PROVIDERS, LOCAL, AND STATE GOVERNMENTS TO BRING AT LEAST ONE ULTRA-FAST GIGABIT INTERNET COMMUNITY TO EVERY STATE IN U.S. BY 2015

FCC'S BROADBAND ACCELERATION INITIATIVE TO FOSTER GIGABIT GOAL

Washington, D.C. – Today at the U.S. Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting, FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski called for at least one gigabit community in all 50 states by 2015. Challenging broadband providers and state and municipal community leaders to come together to meet this “Gigabit City Challenge,” Chairman Genachowski said that establishing gigabit communities nationwide will accelerate the creation of a critical mass of markets and innovation hubs with ultra-fast Internet speeds.

Chairman Genachowski said, “American economic history teaches a clear lesson about infrastructure. If we build it, innovation will come. The U.S. needs a critical mass of gigabit communities nationwide so that innovators can develop next-generation applications and services that will drive economic growth and global competitiveness.”

Speeds of one gigabit per second are approximately 100 times faster than the average fixed high-speed Internet connection. At gigabit speeds, connections can handle multiple streams of large-format, high-definition content like online video calls, movies, and immersive educational experiences. Networks cease to be hurdles to applications, so it no longer matters whether medical data, high-definition video, or online services are in the same building or miles away across the state.

Gigabit communities spur innovators to create new businesses and industries, spark connectivity among citizens and services, and incentivize investment in high-tech industries. Today, approximately 42 communities in 14 states are served by ultra-high-speed fiber Internet providers, according to the Fiber to the Home Council.

To help communities meet the Gigabit City Challenge, Chairman Genachowski announced plans to create a new online clearinghouse of best practices to collect and disseminate information about how to lower the costs and increase the speed of broadband deployment nationwide, including to create gigabit communities. At the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting, Chairman Genachowski proposed working jointly with the U.S. Conference of Mayors on the best-practices clearinghouse effort.

Chairman Genachowski also announced that the FCC will hold workshops on gigabit communities. The workshops will convene leaders from the gigabit community ecosystem—including broadband providers, and state and municipal leaders—to evaluate barriers, increase incentives, and lower the costs of speeding gigabit network deployment. Together, the workshops will inform the Commission’s

clearinghouse of ways industry, and local and state leaders can meet the challenge to establish gigabit communities nationwide.

Communities across the country are already taking action to seize the opportunities of gigabit broadband for their local economies and bring superfast broadband to homes. In Chattanooga, Tennessee, a local utility deployed a fiber network to 170,000 homes. Thanks to the city's investment in broadband infrastructure, companies like Volkswagen and Amazon have created more than 3,700 new jobs over the past three years in Chattanooga. In Kansas City, the Google Fiber initiative is bringing gigabit service to residential consumers, attracting new entrepreneurs and startups to the community.

The Gig.U initiative has already catalyzed \$200 million in private investment to build ultra-high-speed hubs in the communities of many leading research universities, including a recent joint venture with the University of Washington and a private ISP to deliver gigabit service to a dozen area neighborhoods in Seattle. The Gigabit City Challenge is designed to drive a critical mass of gigabit communities like these, creating new markets for 21st century services, promoting competition, spurring innovation, and driving economic growth nationwide.

The FCC's Broadband Acceleration Initiative is working to expand the reach of robust, affordable broadband by streamlining access to utility poles and rights of way, and improving policies for wireless facilities siting and other infrastructure. Gigabit communities can also benefit from tens of thousands of miles of critical "middle mile" fiber infrastructure funded throughout the country by the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program run by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. The Commission's Connect America Fund, the largest ever public investment in rural broadband, includes funding for high-speed broadband to anchor institutions like schools and hospitals.

-FCC-

News about the Federal Communications Commission can also be found on the Commission's web site www.fcc.gov.

Norfolk Department of Economic Development Mission



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Featured Stories

METRONET- Norfolk to be a Gigabit City!!!!

April 22, 2021



“I know the citizens and businesses in Norfolk will welcome MetroNet to our community and all the benefits that their services will bring. Amid COVID-19, the City of Norfolk’s need for increased broadband access has become even more apparent for our businesses and schools with virtual learning and remote work at the forefront. High-speed fiber internet will increase technological capabilities throughout the City. These increased services will help close the digital divide for our residents and businesses.” – Mayor Kenneth Cooper Alexander, Ph.D.

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MetroNet is the largest privately owned fiber to the premise company in the country and will be working with the City to start their construction process later this year. MetroNet privately funds their projects, will establish local retail stores and create local jobs. “This investment puts the City on an elite path to becoming a Gigabit City and we are excited to partner with MetroNet to make this happen. High speed fiber is critical to attracting and retaining businesses in our targeted business sectors.” – Jared Chalk, Director of Development.

“MetroNet’s entrance into our market is a game changer for Norfolk. Its fiber-based, ultra-high speed, affordable connectivity will help us address digital equity and create an infrastructure that will allow Norfolk residents and businesses to thrive in our digital universe.” – Andria McClellan, Norfolk City Council Member & Vice Chair of the Southside Network Authority.

Headquartered in Evansville, Indiana, MetroNet is a customer-focused company providing cutting-edge fiber optic telecommunication services, including high-speed Fiber Internet, full-featured Fiber Phone, Fiber IPTV with a wide variety of programming and products. MetroNet is the largest

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Staff Details

Jared Chalk

Director of Economic Development

Contact

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