

INTRODUCED: March 8, 2021

A RESOLUTION No. 2021-R019

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the development of a digital connectivity map, including both vertical assets and infrastructure owned by the City and of existing fiber networks, for the purpose of developing a strategy to provide universal broadband access across the city of Richmond for all residents.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrons – All Members of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved as to form and legality  
by the City Attorney  
\_\_\_\_\_

PUBLIC HEARING: APR 12 2021 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, Council believes that all residents of the city of Richmond should have reliable and affordable high-speed internet access in their homes, schools, parks, and communities; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of Council, market failures have resulted in the exclusion of lower income communities, particularly Black and Brown families, from a rapidly changing digital society and economy; and

AYES:           8           NOES:           0           ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

ADOPTED:   APR 12 2021   REJECTED: \_\_\_\_\_   STRICKEN: \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, Council affirms its support for the goals of the Commonwealth of Virginia's Commonwealth Connect plan, striving for universal broadband access across the state; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of Council, the production of a vertical asset map and map of the City's existing fiber network is necessary for the City to build a strategy for providing universal broadband access across the city; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that it is in the best interests of the residents of the city of Richmond that the Council request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the development of a digital connectivity map, including both vertical assets and infrastructure owned by the City and of existing fiber networks, for the purpose of developing a strategy to provide universal broadband access across the city of Richmond for all residents;

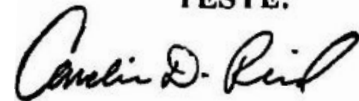
NOW, THEREFORE,

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

The Council requests that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the development of a digital connectivity map, including both vertical assets and infrastructure owned by the City and of existing fiber networks, for the purpose of developing a strategy to provide universal broadband access across the city of Richmond for all residents.

**A TRUE COPY:**

**TESTE:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amelia D. Reed".

**City Clerk**



# Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

## Office of the Council Chief of Staff

### Ordinance/Resolution Request

**TO** Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney

**THROUGH** Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff

**FROM** Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst

**COPY** Andreas Addison, 1st District Council Member  
Daniel Wagner, 1st District Liaison  
Stephanie Lynch, 5<sup>th</sup> District Council Member  
Amy Robins, 5<sup>th</sup> District Liaison  
Tabrica Rentz, Interim Deputy City Attorney

**DATE** February 26, 2021, rev March 2, 2021

**PAGE/s** 1 of 2

**TITLE** Request of the CAO that the City have a Vertical Digital Map Made.

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

**REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON**

Addison & Lynch

**SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE**

Government Operations

**ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY**

Patrons request that legislation be drafted requesting that Chief Administrative Officer develop have a map or digital connectivity assets including “vertical assets” that are – or could be – utilized for telecommunications purposes and are controlled by the city. Further, the map shall contain all city-owned or city-controlled fiber assets, with notation of any restrictions or covenants governing such assets. This map will be used to develop plans to expand high speed internet connectivity for all City residents. Patrons further requests that the draft be substantially as follows where possible:

*Whereas the City Council believes that all Richmond residents should have reliable and affordable high speed internet access in their homes, schools, parks, and communities;*

*Whereas the City Council recognizes that market failures have resulted in the exclusion of lower-*

*income communities, particularly Black and Brown families, from a rapidly changing digital society and economy;*

*Whereas the City Council affirms its support for the goals of the Commonwealth of Virginia's Commonwealth Connect Plan, striving for universal broadband access across the state;*

*Therefore be it resolved that the production of a map and including both vertical assets and the City's existing fiber network is necessary for the City to build a strategy for providing universal broadband access across the city.*

#### **BACKGROUND**

Federal, state, and local governments are increasing making efforts to increase high speed internet access and work to lower its costs. Governor Northam announced plans to make federal CARES Act funding available to localities in Virginia. While Richmond did not apply and receive fund for those monies patrons hope that digital mapping will assist the City in being eligible for future funding.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Fiscal Impact Yes  No

Budget Amendment Required Yes  No

Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact \$ N/A

Note: Cost of mapping is not known at this time.

Attachment/s Yes  No