

INTRODUCED: June 28, 2021

A RESOLUTION No. 2021-R045

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be prepared a plan that provides for the achievement of certain objectives for broadband accessibility and affordability within the city of Richmond, including the designation of a coordinator of broadband telecommunications resources for the City.

Patrons – Mr. Addison and Ms. Lynch

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: SEP 13 2021 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 2.2-205.2 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, the Commonwealth of Virginia has designated an official, known as the Commonwealth Broadband Chief Advisor, to coordinate the use of the Commonwealth's broadband telecommunications resources for maximum availability and affordability for all regions of the state; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, a plan that provides for the achievement of certain objectives for broadband accessibility and affordability within the city of Richmond, including the designation of a coordinator of broadband telecommunications resources for the City, would increase the accessibility and affordability of broadband access for all communities within the city of Richmond; and

AYES: 8 NOES: 0 AB0STAIN: _____

ADOPTED: SEPT 13 2021 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

WHEREAS, the Council believes that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Richmond that the Council request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be prepared a plan that provides for the achievement of certain objectives for broadband accessibility and affordability within the city of Richmond, including the designation of a coordinator of broadband telecommunications resources for the City, for the purpose of increasing the accessibility and affordability of broadband access for all communities within the city of Richmond;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That the Council hereby requests that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be prepared a plan that provides for the achievement of the objectives for broadband accessibility and affordability within the city of Richmond set forth in this resolution, including the designation of a coordinator of broadband telecommunications resources for the City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Council hereby requests that the plan for which this resolution calls include the following objectives, to the extent permitted by law:

1. Oversight and coordination by the broadband telecommunications resources coordinator designated by the Chief Administrative Officer of efforts and initiatives designed to increase and improve the accessibility and affordability of broadband for all residents of the city of Richmond.

2. Establishment and coordination of contracting services for designing and implementing a citywide broadband network for the purposes of providing free or reduced-cost service for lower-income residents and students residing within the city of Richmond.

3. Establishment of methods, as determined by a set of need-based metrics, for providing all students of Richmond Public Schools and their families with affordable access to broadband.

4. Pursuit of state and federal funds for broadband expansion in areas characterized as urban and rural in accordance with any applicable state or federal laws, rules, or regulations.

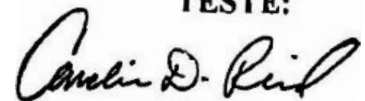
5. Pursuit and management of funds in accordance with the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, H.R. 1319, 117th Cong., 1st Sess. (2021-2022) and other federal broadband infrastructure funding, as necessary, to support the objectives set forth in this resolution.

6. Implementation of plan for a citywide wireless network to allow residents and visitors of the city of Richmond to easily connect to the internet from anywhere within the city of Richmond, including the City's parks system.

7. Integration and coordination of the activities of City agencies and departments with internet service providers offering service or potentially offering broadband service within the city of Richmond.

A TRUE COPY:

TESTE:



Carolin 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
Tabrica Rentz, Interim Deputy City Attorney

DATE June 3, 2021

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TITLE Requesting that the CAO ensure that certain objectives are achieved concerning broadband accessibility and affordability in the City.

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

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

Addison

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Government Operations

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

Patron request that legislation be drafted requesting that the CAO ensure that objectives and tasks listed below are achieved concerning the availability and affordability of broadband in the City are met.

- That a primary point of contact for broadband issues be determined;
- That efforts and initiatives to increase the availability of broadband for all Richmond residents are overseen and coordinated in the City government;
- That efforts to improve affordability of broadband for all Richmond residents are coordinated and overseen;

- That coordination of contracting services for designing and implementing a citywide broadband network for the purposes of providing free or reduced-cost service for lower-income residents and students be established;
- That methods of providing all of the city’s school students and families, as determined by a set of need-based metrics be established;
- That the City pursue State and Federal funding sources for broadband expansion in urban and rural area;
- That the City pursue and managing funding from the American Rescue Plan Act and other federal broadband infrastructure funding, as necessary, to support these efforts;
- That the City plan and implement a citywide wireless network to allow residents and visitors to easily connect to the internet from anywhere in the city, including Richmond’s parks system; and
- That activities among different city agencies and departments and coordinating with Internet service providers offering service or potentially offering service in the City be integrated.

The legislation should also direct all other agencies to support the efforts to improve affordability and access to broadband in the City be coordinated.

BACKGROUND

The patron hopes that this legislation will led to a coordinated effort to effectively leverage City resources to pursue initiatives to provide affordable, reliable, and accessible internet service to all communities in the City.

Note: That the Commonwealth of Virginia has designated an official, known as the Broadband Chief Advisor to coordinate use of the State’s resources at Virginia Code “§ 2.2-205.2.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact Yes No

Budget Amendment Required Yes No

Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact \$ N/A

Note:

Attachment/s Yes No