

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, closing the Digital Divide is critical to the economic prosperity and quality of life for the residents, businesses and numerous stakeholders of the City of Los Angeles and throughout California; and

WHEREAS, high-speed Internet access, commonly referred to as "broadband," and includes both wireline and wireless technologies, is essential 21st Century infrastructure in a digital world as a vital utility to learn, communicate, conduct business, or access resources for all residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles is committed to helping all residents, and in particular individuals who are low-income, have disabilities, and are seniors, use the Internet to access the services and resources provided by the City of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, the CityLinkLA Initiative declares that as many as 30% of nearly 4,000,000 residents of Los Angeles do not have access to high-speed Internet while many businesses and residents pay higher prices for slower speeds when compared to other global cities; and

WHEREAS, the findings of the 2015 Annual Survey on broadband adoption in California conducted by the Field Research Corporation finds that the Digital Divide persists for disadvantaged communities, with large percentages of households in the state not connected at home (35% of low-income households, under \$20,000 annual income; 30% of Latino families; 37% for Spanish-speaking households; and 41% of people with disabilities); and

WHEREAS, the existence of the Broadband Homework Gap has been documented in a PEW Research Center study conducted in April 2015, which shows that the lowest income households have the lowest home broadband subscription rates (approximately one-third of households whose incomes fall below \$50,000 and have children ages 6 to 17 do not have a high-speed internet connection at home); and

WHEREAS, Internet For All Now, through the California Emerging Technology Fund, is urging the Federal Communications Commission to establish an affordable Broadband Lifeline Program through reform of the Universal Services Fund that addresses the three primary barriers to broadband adoption: 1) Cost, 2) Relevance, and 3) Digital Literacy; and

WHEREAS, there is an opportunity to partner with the California Emerging Technology Fund along with more than 50 leading non-profits from around California to ask the Federal Communications Commission to support an affordable broadband program like Lifeline for telephone service.

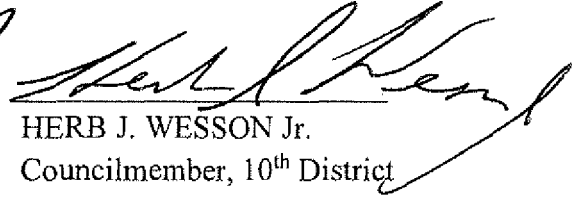
WHEREAS, the Los Angeles City Council hereby commends the California Emerging Technology Fund as champions of the Broadband Lifeline Program described in the Internet for All Now campaign; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that upon adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-16 Federal Legislative Program support and/or sponsorship of any legislation or administrative action that would urge the Federal Communications Commission to adopt an affordable broadband program for disadvantaged residents of Los Angeles, particularly those who are seniors, low-income, or have disabilities.

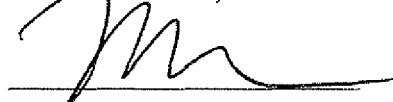
PRESENTED BY:



BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

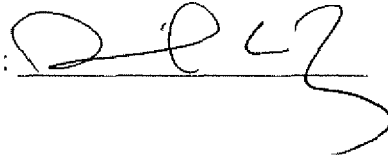


HERB J. WESSON Jr.
Councilmember, 10th District



MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Councilmember, 8th District

SECONDED BY:



SEP 22 2015