

RESOLUTION

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 must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, access to high-speed internet service is essential for access to education, job opportunities, health resources, and civic engagement, as well as other crucial elements of modern life; and

WHEREAS, a study from the Annenberg Research Network on International Communication (ARNIC) shows that within the City of Los Angeles access to broadband service differs greatly according to geography, income, race, and age, causing vulnerable groups to be excluded from the enormous social and economic dividends associated with high-speed internet access; and

WHEREAS, the City has existing programs to reduce barriers to access to internet service, such as OurCycle LA, which distributes refurbished computers to people in underserved communities, and has made previous attempts to close the digital divide through proposals such as CityLink, which aimed to encourage the deployment of advanced wireline and Wi-Fi digital communications networks; and

WHEREAS, closing the digital divide requires additional resources than currently available to the City; and

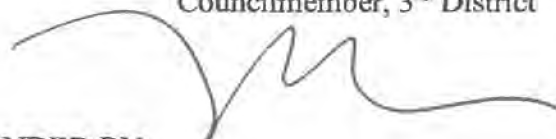
WHEREAS, S. 1167 (Murray), the Digital Equity Act, was introduced in the Senate on April 11th, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation would create a \$120 million grant program for states to create individualized digital equity plans and provide another \$120 million for projects by local governments, non-profit organizations, and other groups; and

WHEREAS, the Digital Equity Act would provide additional revenue to allow the City to create digital inclusion programs and to provide City residents, especially those in vulnerable populations, with access to high-speed internet;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for S. 1167 (Murray), the Digital Equity Act, which would create new federal grant programs to help promote digital equity and support digital inclusion programs.

PRESENTED BY: 
 BOB BLUMENFELD
 Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDDED BY: 

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APR 30 2019

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