

RULES, ELECTIONS, AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT and RESOLUTION relative to establishing the City's position regarding the proposed Restoring Internet Freedom Plan that would eliminate internet service providers (ISP) net neutrality rules.

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Resolution (Blumenfield – Rodriguez - Wesson), SUBJECT TO THE CONCURRENCE OF THE MAYOR:

ADOPT the accompanying RESOLUTION to include in the City's 2017-18 Federal Legislative Program, OPPOSITION to any administrative action, including the proposed Restoring Internet Freedom Plan, that would eliminate ISP net neutrality rules.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA). The City Administrative Officer has not completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY

On November 28, 2017, Council considered Resolution (Blumenfield – Rodriguez - Wesson) relative to opposing the proposed Restoring Internet Freedom Plan that would ISP net neutrality rules. Resolution states that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) established rules in 2015 to protect net neutrality and the public's ability to go where it wants when it wants online. Net neutrality rules prevent ISPs from engaging in practices that harm internet openness, such as blocking access to lawful content, applications, services or non-harmful devices; deliberately targeting some lawful internet traffic to be delivered to users more slowly than other traffic; and, favoring some internet traffic in exchange for paid consideration of any kind and prioritizing the content and services of their affiliates. Current rules allow for investment and innovation to continue to flourish on the internet and prevent practices that are harmful to its openness.

Resolution goes on to state that on December 14, 2017, the FCC is expected to vote on a plan titled Restoring Internet Freedom, which would dismantle the net neutrality regulations that currently help to protect and maintain open, uninhibited access to lawful content online. The proposed plan will restore the classification of broadband internet service as an information service rather than as a utility, which would make it subject to less regulation and reporting requirements. Resolution authors believe the City should oppose any plan that would dismantle the net neutrality rules and put in jeopardy the regulations that seek to protect the equality of all content on the internet. Council referred Resolution to the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee for consideration.

In a report to the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee dated December 1, 2017, the CLA recommends that Council approve the accompanying Resolution to oppose any Federal administrative action to eliminate ISP net neutrality rules.

At its special meeting held December 4, 2017, the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee recommended that Council approve Resolution and the CLA report recommendation relative to this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee



<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
WESSON:	YES
HUIZAR:	YES
HARRIS-DAWSON:	YES

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-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-