

RESOLUTION NO. 120-10

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF THE CALIFORNIA EMERGING TECHNOLOGY FUND TO EXPAND BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY, MAKING ACCESSIBILITY MORE EQUITABLE ACROSS COMMUNITIES IN CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, closing the Digital Divide is vital to the economic prosperity and quality of life for residents in the City of Richmond and throughout California, and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond declares that high-speed Internet access—referred to generically as “broadband” and including both wireline and wireless technologies—is essential 21st Century infrastructure in a digital world and global economy, and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond recognizes that California is home to a wellspring of innovation that has given rise to the evolution of broadband and other information technologies, however Californians’ adoption and use of broadband technology is only approximately equivalent to the national average, and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond acknowledges that 38% of all Californians and 40% of low-income households, and are not connected to the Internet with broadband, leaving more than 14 million Californians without high-speed Internet access at home, and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond is committed to helping families and children be healthy, productive and self-sufficient, and realizes that the use of broadband can save both time and money for residents while helping them bridge the economic divide, and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond is committed to helping students obtain the highest-quality education possible incorporating digital literacy, and understands that high-speed Internet connectivity and the availability of computing devices both at school and at home are critical teaching and learning tools for academic achievement, and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and recognizes that broadband is a strategic “green” technology that decreases greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on foreign oil by enabling e-government and the provision of more services online, and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond is committed to Digital Inclusion and increasing citizen participation in the public process through expanded engagement using broadband, and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond recognizes that it has the opportunity to impact broadband deployment and adoption in its several local government roles and responsibilities, including as a policy leader, planning body, land use approval agency, purchaser-consumer of communications equipment and information technology, and a service provider, and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond welcomes the opportunity to partner with the California Emerging Technology Fund along with the Governor, Legislature, other local governments, civic leaders, community organizations, employers, labor representatives, educators, and policymakers to encourage adoption of broadband technology,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that City of Richmond hereby joins with the California Emerging Technology Fund in launching and promoting Get Connected! — a public awareness program to close the Digital Divide —and declares 2009 and 2010 as target years for all residents, businesses and community organizations to Get Connected!

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Richmond requests all of their departments and agencies to review scopes of responsibilities, work plans, and services to identify and report back to the City Council within six (6) months on the strategic actions that will remove barriers to and promote the deployment and adoption of broadband among residents, customers, and recipients of public services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Richmond City Council directs that appropriate policies promoting and supporting the deployment and adoption of broadband be incorporated into the General Plan and other appropriate land use and economic development plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Richmond City Council directs the appropriate departments to determine how to optimize the use of broadband technology to inform and engage residents to increase citizen participation in the public processes of governance and expand Digital Inclusion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Richmond City Council will seek to cooperate and share the results of Get Connected! with neighboring jurisdictions and other public agencies and shall post this resolution on the City of Richmond website and make it available to other local jurisdictions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Richmond City Council authorize the use of their names as champions of Get Connected! on the websites of the California Emerging Technology Fund (www.CETFund.org and www.GetConnectedToday.com) and in printed materials pertaining to Get Connected!

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly passed, approved and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond, California, at a joint meeting of said City Council held on October 19, 2010, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Rogers, Viramontes, Vice Mayor Ritterman, and Mayor McLaughlin

NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Lopez

DIANE HOLMES
Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

GAYLE MCLAUGHLIN
Mayor

Approved as to form:

RANDY RIDDLE
City Attorney

State of California }
County of Contra Costa } : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of Resolution No. 120-10, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a joint meeting held on October 19, 2010.