

RESOLUTION NO. 142-17

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA,
IN SUPPORT OF NET NEUTRALITY: A FREE AND OPEN INTERNET**

WHEREAS, Broadband infrastructure is vital to the operation and management of other critical infrastructures, including energy generation systems, the power grid, water supply systems, smart cities, the Internet of Things, public safety and emergency response systems, medical facilities, educational institutions, and libraries;and

WHEREAS, net neutrality is the principle that Internet service providers and governments should treat all data on the Internet equally, not discriminating or charging differentially by user, content, site, platform, application, type of attached equipment, and modes of communication. Over a hundred companies and organizations have come out in support of net neutrality including: Amazon, ACLU, Google and the Greenlining Institute; and

WHEREAS, internet service providers (ISPs) including, but not limited to: Comcast, Verizon, etc., would have the capability of impeding access to the internet by slowing the speeds of websites when it is “commercially reasonable”; and,

WHEREAS, studies confirm that the use of broadband advanced communication services increases economic productivity, public and private organizational operation efficiency, and enhanced business profitability; and

WHEREAS, the provision and maintenance of equitable access to technology, broadband Internet access services, digital content, and classroom management tools are necessary for students, teachers, and school administrators, in order to provide equal educational resources to all students at all education levels; and

WHEREAS, established as a part of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, the FCC’s E-rate program provides discounts on telecommunication and Internet access services to schools and libraries, based on poverty level; and

WHEREAS, The federal Lifeline program provides a discount on telephone service to qualifying low-income consumers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and Tribal land, and ensures that all Americans have the opportunities and security that telephone service provides, including connecting to jobs, family, and emergency services; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council support net neutrality and open Internet access for all.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the President of the United States and Members of the United States Congress to continue to protect net neutrality, open Internet access, the federal Lifeline program’s discounted telephone service for qualifying low-income consumers, and the E-rate program’s discounted telecommunication and Internet access services for schools and libraries,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Richmond hereby directs the City Manager or designee to send copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, Federal Communications Commission, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held December 5, 2017, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Choi, Martinez, Recinos, Willis, and Chair Myrick.
NOES: None.
ABSTENTIONS: None.
ABSENT: Vice Mayor Beckles and Mayor Butt.

PAMELA CHRISTIAN
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND
(SEAL)

Approved:

TOM BUTT
Mayor

Approved as to form:

BRUCE GOODMILLER
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. 142-17**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on December 5, 2017.



Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond