

AMENDMENT OF THE WHOLE  
2/7/07

FILE NO. 070022

RESOLUTION NO.

1 [Municipal Broadband]

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3 **Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to weigh the costs and**  
4 **benefits of a Google/Earthlink provided wireless Internet, versus an autonomous**  
5 **Wireless connection created and maintained by the City and County of San Francisco**  
6 **itself.**

7  
8 WHEREAS, Areas of the City and County of San Francisco primarily in the south-east  
9 sectors are “redlined” and have neither DSL nor cable modem connectivity for Internet  
10 access; and,

11 WHEREAS, A shared connection speed of 300 kilobits per second (300kb/s) barely  
12 meets the Federal Communications Commission definition of broadband, and is considered  
13 inadequate for many Internet applications; and,

14 WHEREAS, Silicon Valley, Mountain View and other communities have been offered  
15 free wireless fidelity (known as, WiFi) access at 1,000 kilobits per second (1,000 kb/s); and,  
16

17 WHEREAS, WiFi has a reasonable life expectancy of less than five years, and less  
18 than two years with regards to general technological innovation; and,

19 WHEREAS, The information technology (IT) industry and community lauds fiber optic  
20 connectivity as far exceeding the reliability and stability over WiFi exceeding any  
21 technological advances for at least a decade; and,  
22

23 WHEREAS, Nearly two years ago, San Francisco, in partnership with City College of  
24 San Francisco, finished the installation and owns over 35 miles of fiber optic network (with  
25 more than 220 strands) that has created a solid backbone for ultra-high-speed access that

1 can carry Internet bandwidth speeds which has been reported at exceeding 100,000,000  
2 kilobits per second (100,000,000 kb/s) = 100,000 megabits per second (100,000 mb/s) = 100  
3 gigabits per second (100 gb/s) per fiber pair; and,

4 WHEREAS, Creating, now, a WiFi network connected to the city-owned fiber network  
5 backbone would essentially bring a far better solution to every resident with the vision of a  
6 fiber optic connection right into the home or premises in the near future as the continued  
7 "undergrounding" of electrical and other cables in addition to the sewer renovation projects  
8 would provide ample access to neighborhoods; and,

9  
10 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco adopted on October 2, 2004, by  
11 unanimous vote, a feasibility study on installing City-owned broadband facilities to be initiated;  
12 and,

13 WHEREAS, The Feasibility study on installing City-owned broadband facilities was  
14 finally commenced on August 15, 2006 by the Department of Telecommunications and  
15 Information Services (DTIS); and,

16  
17 WHEREAS, The cost of a City-owned WiFi network including establishing a  
18 government-created non-profit consortium of information technology professionals, known as  
19 an internet exchange, would build out, manage, and maintain this hybrid WiFi/fiber network in  
20 addition to creating known fiscal schemas to provide low-cost leased access to local  
21 businesses; and,

22 WHEREAS, San Francisco is not in the business of making a profit; and,

23  
24 WHEREAS, A City-owned service would provide for reasonable lower access costs for  
25 local businesses to help promote economic development and to provide sufficient revenues

1 to the City for an ongoing build-out of true high-speed municipally-owned broadband access  
2 with full and equal digital inclusion; and,

3 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco must retain full oversight over  
4 rates, costs, specifications, deployment, management, maintenance, and all other aspects of  
5 creating and serving the public with citywide Internet and communications access; and,  
6

7 WHEREAS, The deployment of a substantial broadband deployment in San Francisco  
8 will bring in additional businesses and hence increase tax-based revenue; and,

9 WHEREAS, Community input is vital to any long-term service that will serve the public;  
10 and,  
11

12 WHEREAS, San Francisco must keep consistent with this community oversight with its  
13 commission-based structure; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco shall not do business with any  
15 vendor that does not offer the City and County of San Francisco the best terms, conditions,  
16 and prices compared to other cities ("Most Favorite City" status, akin to Most Favorite Nation  
17 trading status); and, be it further  
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19 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco conduct a meaningful trial of  
20 the WiFi network in two separate one square mile areas of the City before any contract is  
21 signed; and, be it further,  
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23 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco not sign any contract that  
24 lasts longer than the useful life of the technology as is standard in the industry, which is less  
25 than five years for WiFi; and, be it further,

1           RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco revive the  
2 Telecommunications Commission with a mix of appointments by the Mayor and Supervisors,  
3 plus expand its scope to include broadband Internet access; and, be it further

4           RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco not approve or adopt any  
5 contract to provide the City and County of San Francisco and its residents with broadband  
6 Internet access under any medium, i.e., wireless, WiFi, fiber or any future means, until all the  
7 above and any subsequent concerns have been satisfied; and, be it further

8           RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco reaffirms that it currently does  
9 own and control a significant and substantial fiber network; and, be it further

10           RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco explore with due haste, the  
11 creation of a publicly governed broadband network enterprise to serve the people of San  
12 Francisco with free Internet access using modalities, such as, WiFi and the City's own fiber  
13 network or a combination of both, as appropriate, to bridge the digital divide and increase  
14 digital inclusion, with the lowest cost access to the Internet possible; and, be it further

15           RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco retains full oversight over  
16 rates, costs, specifications, deployment, management, maintenance, and all other aspects of  
17 creating and serving the public with citywide Internet and communications access.  
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