Late Backup

#58
2-25-10

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, Google has issued a Request for Information (RFI) to identify communities in which to build an ultra-high-speed broadband network as part of a pilot project; and

WHEREAS, Google will select a small number of locations throughout the United States to deliver internet speeds more than 100 times faster than what most Americans have access to today with 1 gigabit per second, fiber-to-the-home connections; and

WHEREAS, responding to the Google RFI has been identified as a priority by many Austinites and provides an opportunity for engagement and participation from members of the creative, high-tech, academic, and business communities and other community stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is an ideal candidate for the Google Fiber for Communities program and would benefit significantly from this opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the improvements in the broadband network infrastructure would enable Austin to maximize its potential as a leader in the high-tech industry and use its resources and intellectual properties to foster a wave of innovation for new applications and uses of technology; and

WHEREAS, this program would provide the City of Austin with an opportunity to bridge the gaps in broadband network access and help address the inequalities between groups in the ability to fully utilize information technology; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin supports innovative initiatives, such as this opportunity presented by Google, that may contribute to the continued advancement of the high-tech industry and the enhanced sophistication of information technology; and

WHEREAS, the Emerging Technology and Telecommunications Committee of the City Council unanimously recommended that the full City Council adopt a resolution to begin working on responding to the Google RFI; **NOW THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the City Manager is directed to work with stakeholders, including but not limited to the creative, high-tech, academic, and business communities, to draft and submit the City of Austin's response to the Google Fiber for Communities Request for Information.

ADOPTED: _____, 2010 **ATTEST:** _____

Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk