

August 26, 2020

WHEREAS, internet access is central to increasing economic mobility and that 60-70% of total job openings are posted online; and

WHEREAS, internet access is central to effective education systems, and the homework gap – students who lack Internet access at home – has become an increasingly wide national problem; and

WHEREAS, lack of home Internet access disproportionately impacts low-income families and people of color; and

WHEREAS, Dallas was identified in the 2016 United States Census American Community Survey report as one of the major United States cities with the highest percentage of households (42.3%) with no fixed Internet access; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent closure of schools has exacerbated these issues by precluding students without home Internet access from fully participating in robust education and related services; and

WHEREAS, the Dallas Independent School (“Dallas ISD”) initiated Operation Connectivity in March 2020 recognizing that students need robust and reliable home Internet to facilitate asynchronous or “virtual” learning during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the Operation Connectivity working group has identified the ten most highly impacted Dallas zip codes with the largest number of households with children, without Internet access; and

WHEREAS, the District and City of Dallas (“City”) and nearly a dozen other public education institutions in the Dallas metroplex have joined Operation Connectivity with a shared vision of ensuring robust, affordable Internet service for all Dallas residents; and

WHEREAS, the Operation Connectivity working group – also known as “Internet for All – Dallas” – has identified the need to engage an independent consultant to assess the current state of broadband Internet supply in Dallas, and to help formulate long-term strategies for improving Internet access, affordability, and adoption; and

WHEREAS, this agreement is made under the authority of Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the City and Dallas ISD specify that each party paying for the performance of said functions of government shall make those payments from current revenues legally available to the paying party; and

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WHEREAS, City and Dallas ISD desire to partner to share costs of facilitating the deployment of consistent and reliable access to the internet to City residents and Dallas ISD students.

Now, Therefore,

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

SECTION 1. That the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Dallas Independent School District and the City of Dallas, approved as to form by the City Attorney, to establish a cost sharing agreement between the City and Dallas ISD to hire an independent telecommunications consultant to conduct a technical feasibility study for developing a network, such as a point-to-multipoint private cellular, to connect students in their homes in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00. All viable solutions and options will be considered based on costs, performance, and sustainability to meet the needs of the City's residents and the District's students as each continue transitioning to remote working and distance learning.

SECTION 2. That this Interlocal Cooperation Agreement is designated as Contract No. RES-2020-00014192.

SECTION 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the City of Dallas, and it is accordingly so resolved.