

Monroe County Legislature

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COMMITTEES:
Environment & Public Works
Ways & Means

January 21, 2005

To the Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
39 West Main Street
Rochester, New York 14614

Re: Creating a Task Force to Explore and Report on the Feasibility of a Public Wireless Broadband Network for Monroe County

Honorable Legislators:

Local elected officials are all too aware of the fact that their municipalities are increasingly engaged in competition with communities throughout the country and around the world to attract and retain businesses. The winners of this global competition hope to claim as their spoils vibrant communities with healthy, growing economies.

As a result, many municipal governments are seeking innovative ways to differentiate themselves and of promoting economic development for their communities. Not succumbing to competition but rather embracing it, these communities are investing in existing assets. They are retooling and adapting, willing to explore and adopt novel approaches to retaining and attracting new jobs so that they will be among the winners in this global economy.

One inventive approach being used by forward-thinking municipalities is the creation of municipal wireless broadband networks. Like our transportation infrastructure, these networks are publicly owned and paid for. In the 21st century distances are measured in nanoseconds and deliverables measured in megabytes. The future infrastructure of successful municipalities is clearly a digital one.

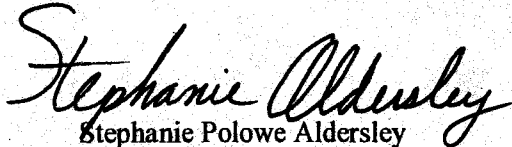
The primary benefit of municipal broadband is obvious: citizens will gain a low-cost means of obtaining what is normally very costly broadband content. In addition to narrowing the digital divide between those with access to broadband and those without, municipal wireless broadband is a powerful tool in spurring economic development.


New high-tech businesses looking for areas to locate their facilities will invariably seek out communities with the infrastructure and technology to promote their products and services. Government leadership and commitment to municipal broadband will help spur further technology investments from the private sector and establish a virtuous cycle of high-tech job creation and continuous innovation for our community.

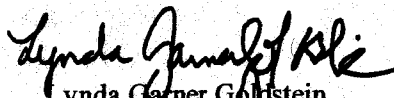



Therefore, in light of the enormous potential benefit to Monroe County, I respectfully request my colleagues to join me in directing the Administration to establish a municipal wireless broadband network task force. Members selected by the Director of Information Services and charged with investigating the feasibility of such a network shall comprise the task force. The task force shall also report back to this Honorable Body within six legislative cycles. The director shall consider the appointment of employees of the Information Services Department and or volunteers with technology expertise in order to avoid adversely impacting the revenues and expenditures in the 2005 Monroe County budget.

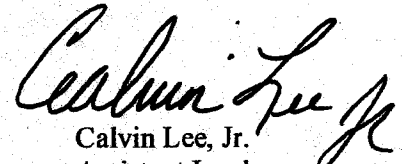
Respectfully submitted,

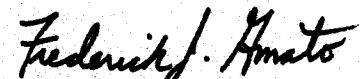

Stephanie Polowe Aldersley
Democratic Leader



Carla M. Palumbo
Assistant Leader

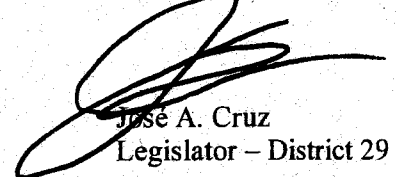

Lynda Garner Goldstein
Legislator - District 14


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