



Mayor's Proclamation



GET CONNECTED OAKLAND!

WHEREAS, closing the Digital Divide is vital to the economic prosperity and quality of life for residents in the City of Oakland and throughout California; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland recognizes that high-speed Internet access--referred to generically as "Broadband" and including both wireline and wireless technologies -- is essential 21st Century infrastructure in a digital world and a global economy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland recognizes that California, and in particular the Bay Area, is home to a well spring of innovation that has given rise to the evolution of Broadband and other information technologies; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland acknowledges that, in 2011, 20% of all Californians, 51% of low-income households, 50% of Latino families, and 45% of people with disabilities are not connected to the Internet with Broadband, leaving more than 10 million Californians without high-speed Internet access at home; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland is committed to helping families and children be healthy, productive and self-sufficient and realizes that the use of Broadband can save both time and money for residents while helping them bridge the economic divide; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland wants to assist students to obtain the highest quality education possible incorporating digital literacy and understands that high-speed Internet connectivity and the availability of computing devices both at school and at home are critical teaching and learning tools for academic achievement, and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland is seeking to reduce its carbon footprint and recognizes that Broadband is a strategic "green" technology that decreases greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on foreign oil by enabling e-government and the provision of more services online; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland is committed to Digital inclusion and increasing citizen participation in the public process through expanded engagement using broadband; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland recognizes that it has the opportunity to impact broadband deployment and adoption in its several local government roles and responsibilities, including as a policy leader, planning body, land use approval agency, purchaser-consumer of communications equipment and information technology, and a service provider.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the City of Oakland supports and joins as a partner in Get Connected Oakland!, a City-Wide initiative to eliminate the Digital Divide throughout Oakland by making it as simple as possible for everyone to have access to a free or low cost computer, Broadband Internet access, training and tech support; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Oakland joins with the California Emerging Technology Fund in promoting Get Connected -- a public awareness program to close the Digital Divide throughout California -- and embraces the goal to achieve broadband Internet access at home for 80% of all Californians statewide by 2015.

April 28, 2011



MAYOR JEAN QUAN

