RESOLUTION 20-15

A Resolution to Support a Feasibility Study for Improved Broadband in Clark County by Clark Public Utilities

WHEREAS, access to broadband is critical to full participation in society and the modern economy; and

WHEREAS, increasing broadband access to unserved and underserved areas of the county serves a fundamental governmental purpose and function and provides a public benefit by enabling access to health care, education, employment opportunities and essential services, providing economic opportunities, and enhancing public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, achieving affordable and quality broadband access for all will require additional and sustained investment, research, local and community participation, and partnerships between private, public, and nonprofit entities; and

WHEREAS, the federal communications commission has adopted a national broadband plan that includes recommendations directed to federal, state and local governments to ensure efficient allocation and management of assets that the government controls or influences to encourage network upgrades and competitive entry; and reform current universal service mechanisms to support deployment in high-cost areas, ensuring that low-income American can afford broadband, and supporting efforts to boost adoption and utilization; and

WHEREAS, sustainable and reliable infrastructure helps build strong economies and equitable communities; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has only increased the pressing need for countywide equitable high-speed broadband internet infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, reliable broadband bridges the digital divide between urban and rural communities, regardless of neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, new, innovative programs that focus on digital equity and inclusion and target the most underserved residents in our cities is possible; and

WHEREAS, strong cities need protected and improved public authority to provide broadband service; and

WHEREAS, cities can promote greater access to high-quality, affordable internet service by working with public partners, residents, and service providers; and

WHEREAS, SB5511 established Washington's broadband goals that by **2026** all Washington businesses and residences would have access to broadband that provides 1 gigabit per second symmetrical (upload and download speeds) broadband service at anchor institutions like schools, hospitals, libraries, and government buildings.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BATTLE GROUND CITY COUNCIL supports Clark Public Utilities District in conducting a feasibility study to develop a plan that encourages, fosters, develops, and improves affordable, equitable, quality broadband within the county in order to:

1. Drive job creation, promote innovation, improve economic vitality, and expand markers for Clark County businesses;
2. Serve the ongoing and growing needs of Clark County's education systems, health care systems, public safety systems, industries and business, governmental operations, and citizens; and
3. Improve broadband accessibility for unserved and underserved communities and populations.

DATED this 7th day of December 2020.

City of Battle Ground

Adrian Cortes, Mayor

Attest:

Kay Kammer, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Christine Hayes, City Attorney