

Commission Letter #: 78-10
Commission Meeting of: 3/15/10
Re: **Google Fiber for Communities Resolution**

The Honorable Mayor
and
Members of City Commission

Google headquarters in Mountain View California announced a plan to test ultra-high speed broadband networks in a small number of trial locations across the country. The experiment is called "Google Fiber for Communities" and for those lucky pilot areas selected, it will deliver fiber-to-the-home connections with Internet speeds of more than 100 times faster (1 gigabit per second) than what most residents have access to today at a competitive price. Google's pilot offering is to select a target community area or areas of at least 50,000 and potentially up to 500,000 people. We want to be selected as one of the pilot communities.

The first step in Google's plan is the invitation for interested municipalities to submit relevant community information through an online Request for Information (RFI) by March 26th. The RFI will be used in determining who will be chosen. Google will consult with the City before making a final decision. Certainly, this project would be extremely beneficial for Royal Oak's growing consumer market for high-tech applications and a valuable service option for all of Royal Oak.

This has to be one of the most exciting and innovative opportunities any one company has offered to do as an experiment. In addition to boosting economic sustainability to the Royal Oak community and surrounding area, this project could potentially open the door to a whole new level of educational, medical, and social applications and interaction. It would enable new and innovative ideas to flourish as well as fostering potential growth and improvements to current e-business services for the community.

There would be no hard costs required of the community only a time commitment of a City official to work toward a successful plan of operation to meet the goals of the Google pilot project and assist them with any issues they encounter during their deployment. It is expected that a target community area or areas will be announced sometime this year. Attached is the Request for Information document regarding this program from the Google website. Royal Oak staff is diligently working on the application as well as garnering support from several community groups. Thus far it has been an overwhelmingly positive show of support from everyone involved.

It is recommended that the following resolution be considered by the City Commission in support of Royal Oak being on the forefront of this initiative.

Whereas, Google has announced an initiative entitled "Google Fiber for Communities"; and

Whereas, the goals of this initiative are to:

- Experiment with new ways to help make Internet access better and faster for everyone
- Provide ultra-high speed Internet fiber-to-the-home
- Develop deployment techniques that inform and accelerate broadband deployment now and for future projects
- Offer service at a competitive price to at least 50,000 and potentially up to 500,000; and

Whereas, the benefits of this initiative will include the potential for:

- Improving our ability to attract and retain businesses
- Enhancing of our residential character
- Allowing for the expansion of the growing high-tech workforce
- Improving the capability of Internet computing
- Elevating the technical knowledge of the current and future workforces
- Escalating innovation of future applications
- Supporting the continued development of e-business into the future; and

Whereas, Google plans to select willing local communities as targets to pilot an ultra-high speed broadband internet service project.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the City of Royal Oak hereby announces its support for this effort and its desire to serve as one of the “pilot communities”; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to commit the resources necessary for the City of Royal Oak’s participation as a “pilot community”.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald E. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donald E Johnson
City Manager

Attachments