REQUESTED BY COUNCILMAN DAVENPORT

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING HB2108 AND REQUESTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REJECT THIS AND ANY COMPANION BILL LIMITING OR IMPEDING A LOCALITY’S CONTROL OF ITS COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, on January 11, 2017 House Bill No. 2108 ("HB2108") was introduced to the Virginia General Assembly as the Virginia Broadband Deployment Act (the “Act”);

WHEREAS, the City Council of Virginia Beach supports the mission of the Broadband Authority Council ("BAC") as organized under Va. Code §2.2-2699.3 and its purpose of expediting deployment and reducing the cost of broadband access in the Commonwealth; however, passage of HB2108 and the Act would produce results that directly conflict with this purpose;

WHEREAS, in partnership with the Commonwealth, the City has successfully negotiated with private companies to host various international submarine cables that will land in Virginia Beach, which will further provide connectivity and technological benefits throughout the Commonwealth and beyond;

WHEREAS, enhancing connectivity is a means of encouraging economic development and diversification of business in the City, the region and the Commonwealth;

WHEREAS, passage of the Act would greatly hinder the progress the City has made to encourage economic development and facilitate technological connectivity throughout the City, the region, and the Commonwealth by precluding the City from sharing infrastructure it owns with any non-governmental entity to provide efficient and cost-effective connectivity;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Virginia Beach recognizes the importance of each locality’s ability to manage its own communication infrastructure in order to foster technological advancement and economic development;

WHEREAS, passage of HB2108 would take away each locality’s authority to utilize and manage its communication infrastructure in furtherance of achieving timely and affordable access to broadband and technological infrastructure, and should be rejected.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA:

    That the City Council opposes HB2108, and the Virginia General Assembly is hereby requested to reject HB2108 and any companion bill limiting or impeding broadband deployment by a locality.

    Adopted by the Council of the City of Virginia Beach on the ____ day of ____________, 2017.
APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Rebecca D. Kubin
Deputy City Attorney
City Attorney's Office

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January 17, 2017