

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 09-0119R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Cole, Young, Henry, Middleton, Kraft, Clarke, Branch,
Reisinger, Conaway, Welch, Spector, Holton, Curran

Introduced and read first time: March 16, 2009

Assigned to: Community Development Subcommittee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Mayor's Office of Cable and Communications, Cable
Communications Advisory Commission

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Deployment of FIOS Services in Baltimore City through**
3 **the Verizon Maryland Network**

4 FOR the purpose of requesting the Mayor's Office of Cable and Communications, the Chair of
5 the Cable Communications Advisory Commission, and representatives of Verizon to come
6 before the Council to discuss deployment of the newest high speed internet and television
7 technology in Baltimore.

8 **Recitals**

9 The Verizon FIOS network serves 2.5 million internet and 1.9 million television customers.
10 Cities with FIOS services include: Annapolis, Maryland; Columbia, Maryland; Jersey City, New
11 Jersey; Trenton, New Jersey; Newport News, Virginia; and Richmond, Virginia.

12 The installation of the FIOS network has continuously had a positive effect on local
13 economies. In March of 2006, Verizon added 600 new full time employment positions in
14 Virginia, and 8,200 new fiber related jobs were created nationally, amounting to nearly \$400
15 million in wages and salaries and an additional \$1.2 billion in "total" economic activity.

16 Building new networks, upgrading infrastructure, and connecting customers to high speed
17 internet creates employment opportunities in a growing telecommunications business. Equally
18 important is the access to superior networks that allow for business success and the transmission
19 of knowledge.

20 Millions of Americans are affected adversely by the digital divide. Most prominent
21 communities to be adversely affected are rural and low income urban areas. More than 62% of
22 households with incomes over \$100,000 subscribe to broadband at home while just 11% of
23 households with incomes below \$30,000 subscribe.

24 In February 2009, Philadelphia's City Council unanimously approved a 15-year franchise
25 agreement with Verizon Communications, Inc., which will bring the FIOS network into that city.
26 Verizon offered assurances on minority hiring and committed itself to put its fiber-optic network
27 evenly across the city over a 7-year period. Verizon has made a written commitment to add 100

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 jobs to its city workforce and to increase its minority-contracting percentage from 14% now to
2 30% by the final year of the contract. Verizon’s investment in this project is estimated to be
3 between \$800 million and \$1 billion. Mayor Nutter of Philadelphia has said that he will sign the
4 legislation.

5 The government of Washington, D.C. has also been in negotiations with Verizon to work out
6 an agreement that will also bring the FIOS network into that city.

7 To join with our neighbor cities to the north and the south, Baltimore needs to begin the
8 process of negotiation with the Verizon Maryland network, so that our citizens can also have
9 access to the newest high speed internet and television technology.

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
11 Mayor's Office of Cable and Communications, the Chair of the Cable Communications Advisory
12 Commission, and representatives of Verizon are requested to come before the Council to discuss
13 deployment of the newest high speed internet and television technology in Baltimore.

14 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor's Office
15 of Cable and Communications, the Chair of the Cable Communications Advisory Commission,
16 representatives of Verizon, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison the City Council.