

TJA

FROM	NAME & TITLE	THOMAS J. STOSUR, DIRECTOR
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 8 TH FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION #15-0263R/ IMPROVING BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS IN BALTIMORE

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



TO

DATE:

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 North Holliday Street

October 6, 2015

The Department of Planning is in receipt of City Council Resolution #15-0263R, which is for the purpose of supporting efforts to improve access to broadband internet service in Baltimore, and calling for the development of City polices to advance these efforts as well as a comprehensive broadband development and implementation plan for Baltimore City.

This bill will improve the quality of life of Baltimore residents by promoting citywide access to Wi-Fi infrastructure, which is essential to functioning in today's society. The bill will also benefit the City by allowing it to retain ownership of valuable fiber assets while allowing for the designation of an impartial body, such as a Broadband Authority, to deploy fiber optic infrastructure and oversee fiber network operations.

The Department of Planning recommends approval of City Council Resolution #15-0263R, with the understanding that we support the bill in concept without committing to specific site plan or methodology.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Wolde Ararsa, Division Chief, Land Use and Urban Design Division at 410-396-4488.

TJS/WA

- cc: Ms. Kaliop Parthemous, Chief of Staff
 Mr. Colin Tarbert, Deputy Mayor for Economic and Neighborhood Development
 Mr. Leon Pinkett, Assistant Deputy Mayor for Economic and Neighborhood Development
 Ms. Angela Gibson, Mayor's Office
 The Honorable Rochelle "Rikki" Spector, Council Rep. to Planning Commission
 Mr. David Tanner, BMZA
 Mr. Geoffrey Veale, Zoning Administration
 Ms. Sharon Daboin, DHCD
 Ms. Barbara Zektick, DOT
 Ms. Elena DiPietro, Law Dept.
 Ms. Melissa Krafchik, PABC
 Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services
 Mr. Jason Hardebeck, Broadband Coordinator