

## **RESOLUTION**

Recognizing and honoring Comcast for their continued dedication to providing internet to Philadelphia's low-income communities and for the expansion of the "Internet Essentials" program to include all low-income veterans living within the company's service area.

WHEREAS, Approximately 35% of Americans making \$30,000 or less per year do not have home broadband access while only 13% of Americans making \$75,000 or more per year do not have home broadband access; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia is one of the least-connected large cities in the United States, ranking 23<sup>rd</sup> out of the 25 largest U.S. cities in percentage of households with broadband access. This "digital divide" means that those without home internet access face profound disadvantages in getting a quality education, strengthening their job skills, obtaining news or accessing the kind of health, educational and financial information that is essential to improving the quality of their lives; and

WHEREAS, As the nation's leading residential broadband service provider, Philadelphia-based Comcast is dedicated to bridging the digital divide by narrowing the broadband opportunity gap. Comcast has invested in broadband adoption and digital literacy programs in Philadelphia and in communities they serve across the United States, including Comcast Digital Connectors in Partnership with One Economy, Club Tech at Boys & Girls Clubs and the League of Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Tech Centers; and

WHEREAS, In the Summer of 2011, Comcast launched Internet Essentials, the largest and most comprehensive broadband adoption program anywhere in the nation, to expand adoption of broadband by low-income Americans. The Internet Essentials program provides low-cost broadband service for \$9.95 per month, the option to purchase a full-service, internet-ready computer for under \$150, and multiple options for digital literacy training in print, online and in-person; and

WHEREAS, Since the program's inception in 2011, the Internet Essentials program has provided 6 million Americans with home broadband access including 196,000 low-income Philadelphians; and

WHEREAS, Comcast recently announced that it will expand its Internet Essentials program to include low-income veterans and seniors in Philadelphia and other cities. Approximately 36,000 low-income veterans live in the state of Pennsylvania and 70 percent of those low-income veterans do not have access to the internet in their homes; and

WHEREAS, City Council wishes to ensure that all Philadelphians can benefit from the connectivity of the internet and applauds Comcast for its efforts in working towards making this possible; now, therefore be it,

**RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA,** That it hereby recognizes and honors Comcast for their continued dedication to providing internet to

Philadelphia's low-income communities and for the expansion of the "Internet Essentials" program to include all low-income veterans living within the company's service area.

Curtis Jones, Jr.  
Councilman, 4<sup>th</sup> District

September 20, 2018