



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of BIS

Date February 6, 2012

To: The Honorable Betsy Hodges, Chair, Ways and Means Committee

Subject: Wireless Community Accounts

Recommendation: Approve application for one free Wireless Community account for Redeemer Missionary Baptist Church located at 116 E 32nd Street, Minneapolis, 55408

Prepared by Elise Ehardt, BIS Interagency Coordinator, 612-673-2026

Submitted by Otto Doll _____, 673-3633
Chief Information Officer

Approved by Steven Bosacker _____
City Coordinator

Presenter in Committee Otto Doll

Policy Review Group X Not Applicable

Permanent Review Committee (PRC) X Not Applicable

Prior Related Directives:

Financial Impact: None.

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Other financial impact (Explain):
- Request provided to department's finance contact prior to the Committee Coordinator

Background/Supporting Information

In its continuing efforts to make Minneapolis a wireless city that bridges the digital divide, the City of Minneapolis continues to accept applications for “Wireless Community” accounts, which are free wireless Internet accounts intended for non-profit organizations that provide free computer access to the public. There are a total of 100 accounts available as part of the community benefits agreement of the Wireless Minneapolis contract with U.S. Internet Wireless. In 2009, staff completed two rounds of applications however accounts still remain for distribution.

Redeemer Missionary Baptist Church submitted an application for a Wireless Community account. City staff have reviewed the request using the eligibility criteria established for the program:

Must be non-profits located in the city of Minneapolis, and that:

- Provide public computer access (“community technology centers”)
- Provide technology literacy training, and/or
- Provide technology support for underserved communities

Groups eligible to apply for Wireless Community accounts:

- 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations located in Minneapolis and serving Minneapolis residents
- Nonprofits that are not 501(c)3 designated, but who have a fiscal agent
- Neighborhood, community-based, and faith-based associations or groups

Redeemer Missionary Baptist Church meets the eligibility criteria and is offering the following community technology services:

- A computer lab with six computer workstations available to the public during selected hours on weekdays, evenings and weekends.
- Computer and Internet assistance for people seeking employment, resume writing and educational needs.

Request for Approval

Business Information Services requests that the City Council approve the application from Redeemer Missionary Baptist Church for a Wireless Community account.