



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Information Technology

Date April 9, 2013

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

Subject: Wireless Minneapolis Community Benefits Account

Recommendation: Approve applications for free Wireless Minneapolis Community Benefits accounts for:
a) CrossRoads Panorama Youth Program at Sabathani Community Center
b) Friends of Peavey Park

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

Approved by Paul Aasen _____
City Coordinator

Presenter in Committee Otto Doll

Policy Review Group Not Applicable

Permanent Review Committee (PRC) 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 and community organizations that provide free computer access to the public and/or digital literacy training. 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.

The City’s Information Technology (IT) Department has two news request for use of free accounts:

- a) CrossRoads Panorama at Sabathani Community Center in South Minneapolis, 310 East 38th Street, 3rd floor Conference Room G. CrossRoads Panorama is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit youth arts organization that helps youth break free of at-risk behaviors. The program combines creative dramatization techniques to empower youth with tools to deal with difficult situations and to equip youth with skill-building techniques and positive life learning experiences that will empower purpose, self-worth and change. The wireless account will provide Internet access on the program’s three computer workstations to expand the youth’s opportunity to explore educational materials and to learn social, academic, creative writing, public speaking, and leadership development skills through technology and online tools. The program serves 8-15 youth on weekly basis and provides computer access for the youth after school, two-three evenings per week, and some weekend hours.
- b) Friends of Peavey Park, 730 E 22nd St, Minneapolis, MN 55404. The Friends of Peavey Park is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the improvement of Peavey Park in the Phillips Community of Minneapolis. The organization works to enhance programming and the physical amenities in the park, and would like to offer Internet access to those who use Peavey Park Recreation Center for meetings and to provide access to those who wish to assist the children with homework. The recreation center is currently open 3-9:00 p.m. weekdays, and is also open weekends during the summer. The Phillips community has one of the lowest rates of Internet and computer access at home (see 2012 Minneapolis Community Technology Survey). The Wireless Minneapolis Community Account would provide an additional public access location for the Phillips community, especially during the evening hours and weekends when public access availability drops significantly.

IT Staff have reviewed the requests and determined that the programs meet the established eligibility criteria for the Wireless Community Accounts:

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

Request for Approval

IT requests City Council approval of the applications for Wireless Minneapolis Community Benefits accounts for CrossRoads Panorama and Friends of Peavey Park.