

Request for Committee Action

To: Ways & Means
Date: 9/21/2015
From: Information Technology
Prepared by: Mary Meyer
Presented by: Otto Doll, Chief Information Officer
File type: Action
Subcategory: Contracts & Agreements

Subject:

Wireless Minneapolis Community Benefits account application by The Atrium

Description:

Approving application for free Wireless Community account for The Atrium at 314 Hennepin Avenue High Rise

Previous Actions:

Not Applicable

Ward/Neighborhood/Address:

Ward 3, Downtown West Neighborhood, 314 Hennepin Avenue

Background/Analysis:

In continuing the efforts to make Minneapolis a wireless city that bridges the digital divide, the City of Minneapolis is accepting 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. These accounts are available as part of the community benefits agreement of the Wireless Minneapolis contract with U.S. Internet Wireless. The value of the Wireless Minneapolis Community Account is \$330 for installation and one year of Internet service.

The City's Information Technology (IT) Department received a new request for the use of a free account at The Atrium High Rise at 314 Hennepin Avenue in Downtown Minneapolis.

Volunteers of America is coordinating with the Minneapolis High Rise Representative Council requests a Wireless Community Benefits Account for the community room at the High Rise. Volunteers of America is a non-profit organization, working in conjunction with the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority to provide housing and social services to low income residents. Most residents in The Atrium High Rise have very limited access to a computer or Internet in their unit and many have limited mobility that prevents them from leaving the building to use computers at the library. The group will be setting up three computers that will be available to residents of all 298 housing units as well as their guests. With support from Volunteers of America, the residents will primarily use the computers and Internet for email, job search, education, looking up community information and resources, and for youth to be able to complete homework.

IT staff have reviewed the request and determined that the program meets 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

Eligibility criteria 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

Information Technology requests proper City officials to

Approve the application for free Wireless Community account for The Atrium at 314 Hennepin Avenue High Rise

Financial Review:

No financial impact.