

City of Minneapolis

Request for Committee Action

To: Ways & Means
Date: 5/23/2016
Referral: N/A
From: Information Technology
Lead Staff: Elise Ebhardt
Presented by: Otto Doll, Chief Information Officer
File Type: Action
Subcategory: Contract/Agreement

Subject:

Wireless Minneapolis Community Benefits Account for Rainbow Terrace

Description:

Approving an application for a free wireless community account through the Wireless Minneapolis Community Benefits program for Rainbow Terrace Public Housing Highrise.

Previous Actions:

Not Applicable

Ward/Address:

Ward 5
1710 Plymouth Ave N

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 Rainbow Terrace Public Housing high-rise at 1710 Plymouth Ave in North Minneapolis.

Volunteers of America is coordinating with the Resident Council to request a Wireless Community Benefits Account for the community room at the apartment building. 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.

Rainbow Terrace provides housing to approximately 100 low income elderly and disabled adults. The wireless Internet service will be available in the community space along with one computer for residents and their guests to use.

IT staff have reviewed the request and determined that the proposal 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

Financial Review:

No financial impact.