

**RESOLUTION
2020-128**

Deputy Clerk MBASS1

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA
SUPPORTING AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE
HIGH-SPEED INTERNET THROUGHOUT FLORIDA.**

WHEREAS, reliable and affordable high-speed internet access is essential for Floridians to be prosperous and to meet today's challenges; and

WHEREAS, the absence of access to reliable and affordable high-speed internet service prevents communities from achieving the high quality of life that is considered a fundamental component for educational and economic success; and

WHEREAS, the absence or lack of high-speed internet hinders the ability for all schoolchildren to have access to educational opportunities, hinders access to telemedicine to improve health outcomes for its residents without demanding travel and transportation, hinders the ability for rapid communication between the public and law enforcement agencies, hinders the ability for communities to maintain and expand business opportunities and stimulate job growth, and hinders the ability to engage in innovative technologies that are required for a vibrant economy; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature recently passed HB 969 (Chapter 2020-26, Laws of Florida), creating the Florida Office of Broadband within the Department of Economic Opportunity, and directing the requiring the creation of a strategic plan that has goals and strategies for increasing the use of broadband internet service in the state; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the strategic plan be based on accurate and up-to-date mapping and the internet access needs of the public and private sectors; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties has developed "Test It!," an easy to use mapping tool that can be used to assess availability of internet; and

WHEREAS, in order to be successful in the goal of universal access to high-speed internet, it will be necessary to determine what the private providers need to provide affordable and reliable connectivity in sparsely located areas, to determine the support necessary to address issues of sparse populations, to provide expanded internet services, and to engage governmental entities at the federal, state and local levels.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Levy County Board of County Commissioners that it supports the State of Florida, and the Department of Economic

Opportunity in the efforts to achieve access to reliable and affordable high-speed internet for every household and business throughout the State of Florida.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Levy County Board of County Commissioners will support the Florida Office of Broadband and participate in the implementation of HB 969 (Chapter 2020-26, Laws of Florida), including providing information, assisting in mapping efforts, and supporting other such efforts that will lead to enhanced access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet services throughout Levy County and the State of Florida.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED this the 17th day of November, 2020.

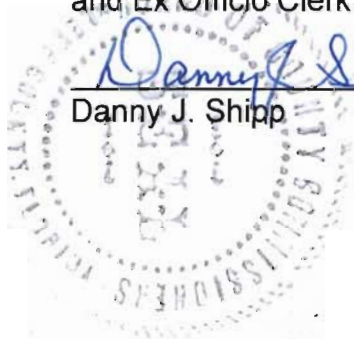
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA**



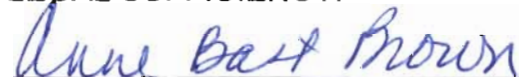
Matthew Brooks, Chairman

ATTEST: Clerk of the Circuit Court
and Ex Officio Clerk to the Board



Danny J. Shipp

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



Anne Bast Brown, County Attorney 