

RESOLUTION 2020 - 60

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA SUPPORTING AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET THROUGHOUT FLORIDA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, reliable and affordable high-speed internet access is essential for Floridians to be prosperous and meet challenges of the twenty-first century; 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 and/or lack of high-speed internet hinders:

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

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature recently passed House Bill 969, creating an Office of Broadband within the State of Florida, Department of Economic Opportunity, requiring the creation of a strategic plan that has goals and strategies for increasing the availability and use of broadband internet service in the state; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the State of Florida's strategic plan for broadband access be based on accurate and up-to-date mapping and the internet access needs of the public and private sector; 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 meet the goal of universal access to high-speed internet, it will be necessary to determine what the private providers need to make available affordable and reliable connectivity in sparsely located areas; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida finds that providing support for the State of Florida in its efforts to support and expand affordable and reliable high-speed internet access is in best interest of Bradford County, Florida and its citizens.

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida as follows:

Section 1. Adoption and Incorporation of Recitals.

The Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida adopts the above-outlined recitals and incorporates them herein as part and parcel of this resolution.

Section 2. Purpose and Authority for Resolution.

This resolution is adopted for the purpose of expressing the support of the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida for affordable and reliable high-speed internet access throughout Florida and is adopted pursuant to the authority granted by Chapter 125, *Florida Statutes*.

Section 3. Support for Affordable and Reliable High-Speed Internet Access.

A. The Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida hereby expresses its support for the State of Florida, Department of Economic Opportunity in the effort to achieve

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

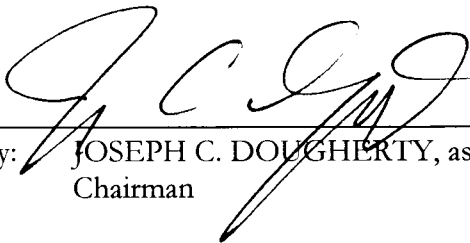
B. The Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida further pledges to support and assist the State of Florida, Department of Economic Opportunity, Office of Broadband, by participating in meeting the obligations of House Bill 969, including by providing information, assisting in mapping efforts, and supporting other such efforts leading to enhanced access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet services throughout Bradford County and the State of Florida.

Section 4. Effective Date of Resolution.

This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption by the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida.

RESOLVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida, with a quorum present and voting, this 7th day of December 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA


By: JOSEPH C. DOUGHERTY, as its
Chairman

ATTEST:


By: RAY NORMAN, as
Clerk to the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:


By: WILLIAM E. SEXTON, as
County Attorney