

RESOLUTION 20-21- 47

A RESOLUTION OF THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PERTAINING TO AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT; PROVIDING A PLEDGE OF SUPPORT FOR AFFORDABLE HIGHSPEED INTERNET ACCESS; PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, highspeed internet has become an essential service which Floridians utilize and rely upon in both their personal and professional lives; and

WHEREAS, the absence of access to reliable and affordable highspeed internet service thwarts individuals, and the communities in which they live and work, from achieving educational and economic success; and

WHEREAS, reliable, highspeed internet promotes educational opportunities, access to telemedicine and improved healthcare outcomes, rapid communication between the public and law enforcement agencies, the expansion of business and employment opportunities and the ability to engage in the innovative technologies required for a vibrant economy; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature recently passed House Bill 969 which created an Office of Broadband within the Department of Economic Opportunity, requiring the development of a strategic plan designed to increase the use of broadband internet services in the state; and

WHEREAS, the County has determined that is in the best interest of the business and residential citizens of Highlands County to support this valuable initiative with the end goal being access to reliable and affordable highspeed internet service for every household and business in the State of Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. Highlands County has complied with all requirements and procedures of Florida law in processing this Resolution. The above recitals are hereby adopted.

SECTION 2. Pledge of Support for Affordable Highspeed Internet Access. Highlands County hereby pledges its support for the State of Florida, Department of Economic Opportunity's

efforts to achieve reliable and affordable high-speed internet access for every household and business throughout the State of Florida. In addition, Highlands County will participate in and support initiatives in furtherance of Florida House Bill 969, including providing information, assistance with mapping efforts and assisting with such other efforts that will lead to enhanced access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet services throughout Highlands County and the State of Florida.

SECTION 3. Implementation of Administrative Actions. The County Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to take such action as may be deemed necessary and appropriate in order to implement the provisions of this Resolution. The County Administrator may, as deemed appropriate, necessary and convenient, delegate the powers of implementation as herein set forth to such County employees as deemed effectual and prudent.

SECTION 4. Savings Clause. All prior actions of Highlands County pertaining to the provision of affordable, reliable highspeed internet access, as well as any and all matters relating thereto, are hereby ratified and affirmed consistent with the provisions of this Resolution.

SECTION 5. Scrivener's Errors. Typographical errors and other matters of a similar nature that do not affect the intent of this Resolution, as determined by the County Administrator and County Attorney, may be corrected.

SECTION 6. Conflicts. All Resolutions or parts of Resolutions in conflict with any of the provisions of this Resolution are hereby repealed.

SECTION 7. Severability. If any Section or portion of a Section of this Resolution proves to be invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional, it shall not be held to invalidate or impair the validity, force, or effect of any other Section or part of this Resolution.

SECTION 8. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.


PASSED AND ADOPTED this 1st day of December, 2020.



HIGHLANDS COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By: 
Scott Kirouac, Chairman

ATTEST:


Jerome Kaszubowski, Clerk of Courts