



**City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
October 27, 2009**

ITEM TITLE:

Resolution approving a memorandum of understanding between the City of Coral Gables and the Miami Dade Broadband Coalition for the City to participate as a member to implement a broadband network initiative for South Florida.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CITY MANAGER:

Approval

BRIEF HISTORY:

Membership

The Miami-Dade Broadband Coalition (MDBC) came together through a Knight Center initiative, and has been joined by multiple government, education, health, private, and non-profit entities with presence in South Florida. MDBC includes, but is not limited to: Miami-Dade County, City of Miami, City of Doral, Miami-Dade Public Schools, Miami-Dade College, University of Miami, Barry University, South Florida Hospital & Healthcare Association, Health Choice Network, Miami Museum of Science, Knight Center of Digital Excellence, FPI Group, FPL FiberNet, Internet Coast, Human Services Coalition, Collins Center for Public Policy, Public Interest Computer & Technology, Per Scholas, and College Summit.

Coalition Purpose

To transform our community and close the digital divide, create jobs, increase economic opportunities, and reduce operating costs.

Coalition Mission

The Miami-Dade Broadband Coalition will build and support an advanced, open, shared, high-speed broadband network that connects diverse stakeholders in order to collaborate and pool resources to create positive community transformation in the areas of education, healthcare, economic growth, jobs creation, digital inclusion, public safety and government efficiency.

Coalition Vision

Create a connected community in Miami-Dade that advances education, economic development, individual empowerment and quality of life for all residents.

Purpose of this MOU

To allow the City of Coral Gables to participate as a member of the Miami Dade Broadband Coalition.

Funding

The MDBC has applied for an \$82,000,000 grant from the \$7.2 billion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) allocated to provide broadband access to underserved populations across Miami-Dade County. In addition, the Knight Foundation has approved a \$900,000 grant for a pilot project providing broadband access to underserved communities in Miami-Dade County.

ARRA Proposed Project:

The ARRA application project title is: "Broadband Miami, a Bridge to the Future." The project will construct a robust broadband network that will connect community anchor institutions in Miami-Dade

County and extend broadband services to underserved communities. This is shovel-ready initiative and will create efficiencies in the delivery of healthcare, education and government, impact our economy, improve public safety, and create jobs.

There is a wireless portion that will target the underserved areas of Miami-Dade County, and covers 35 square miles that include Homestead/Florida, Cutler Bay West, Sunset Place, Downtown Miami, Biscayne Near the Airport, Opa Locka, and Bird Road-Coral Gables.

There is also a fiber component of the project that will impact all of Miami-Dade County (population 2,387,170) within 3 years. Up to 900 community anchor institutions county-wide can be interconnected via the MDBC high speed network. The anchor institutions include 120 hospitals and medical facilities, 22 college campuses and facilities, 47 government centers, 402 public schools, 83 public libraries, 71 fire stations, 73 police stations and six emergency operations centers. The MDBC expects to connect 500 subscribers through the wireless component of this middle mile project.

Services provided may include: (i) reduced costs bandwidth aggregation; (ii) shared data center, application, archival system, and database resources; (iii) public safety applications support; (iv) smart grid; and (v) electronic health records exchange, research between institutions, and distance learning applications between educational institutions and students. Underserved access will be provided to support active broadband adoption and computer technology center programs. The Coalition intends to invest in digital inclusion programs like these with proceeds derived from operations.

The MDBC project will create approximately 1,150 immediate and urgently needed high paying jobs directly involved in the implementation of this community broadband network, and 575 indirect jobs in Miami-Dade County as a result of project related activity, which will stimulate the South Florida economy.

Knight Proposed Project:

MDBC will include Aggregation and Wireless features in the Knight funded pilot.

The aggregation feature is a design and build-out of a core network at the NAP of the Americas, to provide high-speed low-cost Metro-E network links and Internet access to member locations.

The wireless feature targets a one (1) square mile underserved area in Overtown Miami providing Internet access to the residents in the area.

These features are intended to: (i) provide free and low-cost wireless internet access in underserved communities; (ii) expand the City of Miami 'Rights of Passage' program county-wide to adults and seniors; (iii) launch Metro-E and ISP services for MDBC members; (iv) establish a virtual HealthConnect program via point-to-point wireless links; and, (v) connect public institutions in new ways.

This MOU does not require any financial obligation on the part of the City.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Date	Resolution/Ordinance No.	Comments

ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION(S):

Date	Board/Committee	Comments (if any)

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FINANCIAL INFORMATION: (If Applicable) N/A

No.	Amount	Account No.	Source of Funds
1.			
Total:		APPROVED BY:	

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION(S):

Date	Form of Notification

APPROVED BY:

Department Director	City Attorney (If Applicable)	City Manager
10/19/09	<i>City Attorney Signature</i>	<i>City Manager Signature</i>

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Memorandum of Understanding between MDBC and "Coalition Member Organizations"
2. MDBC Preliminary Charter
3. Resolution – MDBC Membership