



**TOWNSHIP OF DOWNE
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Bart, S.	X			
Byrne, S.	X			
Burt, S.	X			
Rothman, M.	X			
Campbell, R.	X			

Resolution Number: R-114-2020 Dated: November 9, 2020 Offered By: ROTHMAN Seconded By: BURT
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RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HIGH SPEED INTERNET ACCESSIBILITY

WHEREAS, rural areas of the State of New Jersey are serviced by service providers with respect to high-speed internet service; and

WHEREAS, having access to high speed internet service is a necessary and vital part of living in today's society; and

WHEREAS, the recent pandemic of COVID-19 further illustrates just how vital access to high speed internet has become to society, especially during times of crisis or emergencies and how not having access to high speed internet has the potential to cripple a community, particularly a rural one, denying the community the capacity for remote study learning and remote working arrangements with a resident's employer; and

FURTHERMORE, during a time of crisis not having access to high speed internet has the potential to shut down all functions of government by denying essential employees and elected officials the ability to work, communicate, distribute information, conduct meetings, and perform the other requirements of a functioning government through remote capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Downe believes that the service providers of aerial line high speed internet in the State of New Jersey are more than capable of and financially sound enough to achieve a 100% rate of high speed internet accessibility but choose not to pursue that goal unless forced to through regulation because the providers feel it is not profitable; and

WHEREAS, not having access to high speed internet service is a plight on students, reducing their educational opportunities and ability to learn in a modern world; and

WHEREAS, not having access to high speed internet service causes a great burden to businesses, places them at a disadvantage, and reduced chances for economic development in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, not having access to high speed internet service can cause rural healthcare facilities to shut down because they cannot access required networks to function, thereby further creating negative impacts on New Jersey residents' health; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Downe is desirous of assisting and cooperating with other public entities, the State Legislature, to pursue a petition before the Board of Public Utilities to enact regulations requiring a 100% rate of high speed internet accessibility in each individual municipality throughout the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, unless the Board of Public Utilities requires service provides of aerial line high speed internet to provide 100% high speed internet access in all municipalities throughout New Jersey, the State will have unintentionally subverted the publics' significant investment in the Highlands Preservation zones, farmland, and open space preservation by not allowing those areas' businesses to be economically competitive and viable over the long term.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Downe, County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey that the Board of Public Utilities is requested to order all service providers of high speed internet to provide high speed internet service to all municipalities throughout the State with each municipality being afforded a 100% rate of high speed internet accessibility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that our State representative use their authority to require service providers of high speed internet to achieve a 100% rate of high speed internet access for each individual municipality throughout the State of New Jersey; and

BE IT FURHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Clerk for the Township of Downe be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the Senate President of the New Jersey State Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly of the State of

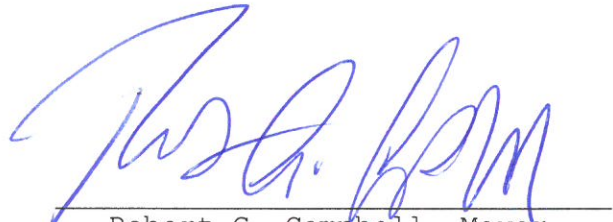
New Jersey, the Cumberland County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the Board of Public Utilities; and

BE IT FURTHERMORE RESOLVED, that the Municipal Clerk for the Township of Downe be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Municipal Clerks of all 565 municipalities in the State, encouraging them to pass similar resolution so that during times of crisis and emergency all New Jersey residents have access to the vital resource of high speed internet access thus allowing employees to work remotely, healthcare providers to function, governments to continue to function ensuring the health, safety and welfare of residents, and also so that all children in the State of New Jersey have an equal opportunity to access information critical to furthering their educations.

THIS RESOLUTION was adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Downe on November 9, 2020.

ATTEST:


Nadine E. Lockley, Municipal Clerk


Robert G. Campbell, Mayor

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, **NADINE E. LOCKLEY, RMC, CMR**, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Downe, County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and accurate copy of the Resolution adopted by the Downe Township Committee of the Township of Downe, County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey, at a Regular Meeting held on November 9, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Complex.

Date

NADINE E. LOCKLEY, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk