

RESOLUTION NO. 2839

WHEREAS, a free and open Internet has become a vital tool for communications, education, economic success, and general well-being; and

WHEREAS, the principle of Net Neutrality holds that Internet service providers should treat all data equally, without discriminating based on content; and

WHEREAS, Net Neutrality has guided the Internet as an informal rule since its creation, and the 2015 Open Internet Order was implemented in order to institutionalize Net Neutrality; and

WHEREAS, the repeal of the 2015 Open Internet Order by the Federal Communications Commission in 2017 removed enforceable rules that would have preserved and protected Net Neutrality; and


WHEREAS, violations of Net Neutrality could result in increased costs, blocking or slowing of traffic, or other restrictions on Internet access that would have an adverse economic impact and disproportionately harm the most vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, keeping the Internet free and open is in the best interest of our City and our residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA,


1. That the City of Alexandria supports the principles of Net Neutrality;
2. That the City of Alexandria aims to be a “Net Neutrality City” where Internet service providers treat all data equally;
3. That the City urges the federal government to adopt a national policy to enforce Net Neutrality; and
4. That this resolution shall be effective immediately.

Adopted: June 26, 2018



ALLISON SILBERBERG MAYOR

ATTEST:



Gloria Sitton, CMC City Clerk

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 15, 2018

TO: MARK B. JINKS, CITY MANAGER

FROM: CATHARINE RICE, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION CHAIR

SUBJECT: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION ON NET NEUTRALITY

ISSUE: Receipt of Information Technology (IT) Commission recommendation regarding Net Neutrality Resolution for the City of Alexandria to take a position on Net Neutrality in the attached resolution.

RECOMMENDATION: The IT Commission endorses the principles that the resolution lays out.

BACKGROUND: At the April 24, 2018 City Council legislative meeting, Council asked the IT Commission to review the Net Neutrality Resolution (attached) and offer a recommendation to Council before adopting a resolution. On June 4, 2018, the IT Commission met to discuss the resolution on Net Neutrality. In conclusion, the IT Commission agreed to endorse the principles of City Council's resolution. Net Neutrality aims to restore data equality online and maintain free and open internet access for all.

FISCAL IMPACT: No current fiscal impact. Indirect costs associated with ensuring Net Neutrality are possible if there is need to advocate for legislation or defend state and local laws associated with the issue.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. City of Alexandria Net Neutrality Resolution
2. IT Commission PowerPoint Presentation