

To Council

Resolution in Support of Public Wireless in Urbana

April 10, 2006

WHEREAS

The social benefits of developing a community wireless infrastructure are numerous ranging from helping local government increase efficiency and service, extending the reach of public health services, providing educators with affordable high-tech resources, empowering citizens and organizations through communications, and bolstering the local economy, and

WHEREAS

Urbana is home to a world class university conducting wireless research and cutting edge non-profit wireless development now deployed throughout Illinois and in Ghana, South Africa, California, Washington DC, Kansas, and elsewhere, and

WHEREAS

Wireless development in Urbana has brought positive attention to our community and state, having been highlighted in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, National Public Radio, BBC, Washington Post, Economist, Nation, Forbes, and St. Louis Dispatch, and elsewhere, and

WHEREAS

Urbana has invested in extending open access wireless in the library and in key business and social gathering points in downtown, and

WHEREAS

Council has stated that the expansion of public wireless is one of its top goals over the next four years, and

WHEREAS

Community groups have located dozens of open access wireless nodes around downtown Urbana with the support of substantial foundation grants, and

WHEREAS

Urbana is positioned to be a state and national model for the affordable deployment of municipal wireless,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

The City of Urbana supports public and community wireless in Urbana and seeks support to expand our municipal wireless network, and

BE IT RESOLVED

That a copy of this be sent to Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn, State Representative Naomi Jakobbsen, State Senator Rick Winkel, and our three Congressional Representatives/Senators Dick Durbin and Barack Obama and Representative Tim Johnson.