UNAPPROVED

Broadband Advisory Council

Regular Meeting

May 22, 2019

**TIME AND PLACE:** The Broadband Advisory Council met May 22, 2019 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center (1000 19th St. Virginia Beach, VA 23451).

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Delegate Byron, Chair

 Senator Ruff, Vice-Chair

 Delegate Leftwich

 Secretary Brian Ball (representative) – Evan Feinman

 Rosemary Wilson

 Duront Walton
 James Carr – via phone

 Kristie Hemlick Proctor – via phone

 Senator McDougle – via phone

**STAFF PRESENT:** Chuck Kirby

 Caroline Luxhoj

 Jeff Sharp

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM:** With only six members of the council physically present, a quorum was not established.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting was called to order at 12:50 PM.

**WELCOME:** Rosemary Wilson (Virginia Beach City Council and BAC member) welcomed the council to Virginia Beach.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Without a quorum, the minutes from the 10-23-18 meeting could not be approved. Therefore, the council will push the approval to the next meeting.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**
Jeff Sharp (Senior Attorney - DLS, and BAC staff) provided an update to the council regarding broadband-related legislation from the 2019 Virginia Legislative Session. For a copy of this update, please contact Caroline Luxhoj (caroline.luxhoj@cit.org).

**VATI UPDATE**

Courtney Dozier (Chief Deputy – DHCD) gave an update regarding DHCD’s VATI grant program. For a copy of this presentation, please contact Caroline Luxhoj (caroline.luxhoj@cit.org).

**TRANSOCEANIC CABLES PRESENTATION**

Darrell Riddick (Chief Technology Officer - City of Virginia Beach) gave a presentation regarding the transoceanic cables. For a copy of this presentation, please contact Caroline Luxhoj (caroline.luxhoj@cit.org).

**HAMPTON ROADS REGIONAL BROADBAND INITIATIVE**

Andria McClellan (Norfolk City Council) and Susan Vitale (Chesapeake City Council) gave a presentation regarding Hampton Road’s regional fiber ring project. For a copy of this presentation, please contact Caroline Luxhoj (caroline.luxhoj@cit.org).

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

* Feinman said that he is hopeful that the council can develop of broad policy agenda.
* Senator Ruff conveyed a concern from a constituent that VATI grants have been focused on bigger proposals and do not leave much room for the smaller providers.
	+ Feinman said that there are not a lot of small fiber carriers, but there are some smaller WISPs, and half of the VATI awards went to WISPs. He pointed out that although public money is helping to launch the infrastructure, the private sector must be able to support it so they have to provide proof that they can do that.
* Delegate Byron said that she would like to see updates from those impacted by past broadband legislation such as Delegate O’Quinn’s recent bill.
* Delegate Byron would like an update regarding what has been done with all broadband funding (VATI/GO Virginia/Tobacco Commission).
* The next BAC meeting will likely be in August.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

* Barrett Stork (Cox) - Cox is offering 1GB broadband to everyone within footprint.
* Bob Mathias (City of Virginia Beach) – Virginia Beach as received many small cell applications.
	+ Debra Bryan (Virginia Beach City Attorney) – this week alone this city has received 60 small cell applications. The city has had to allocate more staff to address applications.
* Robert Hofrichter (VDOT) VDOT has three electric coops that have entered into its pilot program. Process has been smooth so far.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 PM.