



# Louisville Metro Government

601 W. Jefferson Street  
Louisville, KY 40202

## Action Summary - Final Committee on Equity and Inclusion

*Chair/Council President David James (D-6)*  
*Vice Chair Nicole George (D-21)*  
*Committee Member Barbara Shanklin (D-2)*  
*Committee Member Keisha Dorsey (D-3)*  
*Committee Member Markus Winkler (D-17)*  
*Committee Member Robin Engel (R-22)*  
*Committee Member James Peden (R-23)*

---

Monday, November 30, 2020

3:00 PM

Council Chambers

---

### Call to Order

Chair James called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

### Roll Call

Chair James introduced the committee members and non-committee members present. A quorum was established.

**\*NOTE:** All committee members and non-committee members present attended virtually.

**Present:** 7 - Chair David James (D-6), Vice Chair Nicole George (D-21), Committee Member Barbara Shanklin (D-2), Committee Member Keisha Dorsey (D-3), Committee Member Markus Winkler (D-17), Committee Member Robin Engel (R-22), and Committee Member James Peden (R-23)

### Non-Committee Member(s)

Council Member Paula McCraney (D-7)

### Clerk(s)

Connie Dearing, Assistant Clerk  
Sonya Harward, Clerk

### Special Discussion

[ID 20-1625](#)

**Digital Inclusion & the Broadband Strategy Plan - Grace Simrall, Chris Seidt - The Office of Civic Innovation and Technology**

**Attachments:** [Broadband - MC E&I Presentation.pdf](#)

Grace Simrall and Chris Seidt, Office of Civic Innovation and Technology, gave a presentation attached hereto.

The following spoke to the item:

- Committee Member George
- Committee Member Markus Winkler

- Committee Member Dorsey
- Committee Member Peden
- Council Member McCraney

The following was discussed:

- Public Wi-Fi in the parks and the need for structures to house the equipment
- The parks that currently have Wi-Fi
- An extension of internet service access at Community Centers for access within the parking lots
- Availability and lack of availability of fiber to Jefferson County residents
- Fiber cost being low compared to the cost of replacing or repairing the poles and the amount of poles needed in areas with larger lots versus the area with smaller lots
- The initial cost for fiber is high because of the construction cost
- Possible alternatives to residents to receive internet
- The digital divide being a social divide in Louisville
- The libraries having extended the hours from dawn to dusk for Wi-Fi usage
- Access outside of the government buildings is only about 500 feet, and when Wi-Fi is accessed from the outside of the buildings there is interference from other spots
- Rolling out of public access being shared with a business such as a coffee shop being considered
- Possibility of a pilot program spanning a five-year plan
- Fiber maps from companies should be shared
- High speed internet from apartment owners being made available as part of the utility package
- Fiber to the home network such as an Internet Service Provider (ISP) is costly and Metro would essentially become a business such as Louisville Water Company, needing customer, billing, etc.
- Non-traditional Instruction (NTI) and residents working from home has become a challenge
- Fiber network is in numerous areas, but is an affordability issue for the residents
- Identifying the pocket areas of the west end of Louisville that have a great need for internet
- Copper versus fiber to the home is not the best solution
- Low cost plan versus the high cost plan

## Adjournment

Without objection, Chair James adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m.