

RESOLUTION 2018-30

A Resolution of the City of Lake Wales, Florida, Declaring its Support for the Polk Vision Smart Communities Team and the Vision Statement of the Polk County Broadband Plan and a Call to Action

WHEREAS, closing the digital divide is vital to the economic prosperity and quality of life for residents of the City of Lake Wales and throughout Polk County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lake Wales recognizes an immediate need to improve the standing of Polk County and its 17 municipalities as the 7th lowest share of households with a broadband internet subscription in the nation; and ¹

WHEREAS, the City of Lake Wales finds and declares that high-speed internet access—referred to generically as “broadband” and including both wireline and wireless technologies—is essential 21st Century infrastructure in a digital world and global economy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lake Wales is committed to helping students obtain the highest-quality education possible and understands that high-speed Internet connectivity and the availability of computing devices both at school and at home are critical teaching and learning tools for academic achievement in the 21st Century. This is especially important since Polk County is home to six major colleges and universities, satellite campuses and technical schools that provide a wellspring of innovative, creative and technology-savvy students; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lake Wales acknowledges that, according to the Polk County Broadband Plan, broadband utilization survey (2012-2013), 73.4% of Polk businesses indicate that, “A fast internet connection is **critical** for maintaining their company’s competitiveness” and 71.4% of Polk businesses indicate that, “A fast internet connection is **critical** for producing and delivering the services or products their company provides to customers.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Lake Wales hereby joins with Polk Vision, the Polk Vision Smart Communities Team and other partners, working collaboratively to further the vision of the Polk County Broadband Plan, which is “to facilitate opportunity, innovation, and efficiency by ensuring that every individual, corporation, non-profit, visitor, government entity, and community partner in Polk County has access to affordable high-speed internet service”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Lake Wales City Commission will encourage that future planning activities take into consideration broadband access and needs, making broadband a strategic priority in planning.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Lake Wales City Commission hereby authorizes the use of its name as a champion of increased broadband deployment and adoption in printed materials and other media pertaining to the efforts of the Polk Vision Smart Communities Team to achieve the vision of the Polk County Broadband Plan.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of December, 2018

Signature:

Eugene L. Fultz, Mayor

¹ (Tomer & Kane, Broadband Adoption Rates and Gaps in U.S. Metropolitan Areas (Brookings), 2015)