

*The Board of Supervisors of
Contra Costa County, California*

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 2014/66

Honoring Efforts at Bridging the Digital Divide in Contra Costa County Including the Richmond Work of the Building Blocks for Kids Collaborative.

Whereas, Closing the Digital Divide and helping all Contra Costa residents have access to the internet is vital to our economic prosperity and quality of life; and
Whereas, The San Francisco Bay Area is an exciting and important hub of technological innovation and discovery with important global impact, however not all residents, including in Contra Costa County, have equal access to even the basic fruits of this labor such as broadband access to the internet; and
Whereas, In California, a sizable number of residents, primarily low income, don't have easily accessible broadband access to the internet;
Whereas, Contra Costa County is helping residents access the internet in a number of ways, from donating computers and equipment, to improving the County website to make it easier to use, to collaborating with nonprofit organizations working to bridge the digital divide;
Whereas, The Building Blocks for Kids Collaborative (BBK), a nonprofit organization working on neighborhood improvement in Richmond including improving internet access, recently conducted research on digital literacy in central Richmond, releasing its findings in a new report called Community Connections: A Roadmap for Advancing Digital Literacy and Access in Richmond's Iron Triangle; and
Whereas, The study by the Building Blocks for Kids' Digital Literacy Working Group found that 67% of residents in the survey area lack internet access at home, primarily due to cost; that two out of five residents don't own a working computer, and that while half of the residents are regular computer users, public computer services such as at the library are often overstretched and understaffed; among other findings, and
Whereas, In its efforts to improve internet access, Building Blocks for Kids is partnering with another nonprofit, Internet Archives, which is installing a wireless antenna in Richmond's Iron Triangle neighborhood to provide free broadband access to residents, a program that can be expanded to other areas of the County; and
Whereas; Though exciting progress is being made to expand internet access in Contra Costa County to those who don't have it, more work needs to be done; and
Whereas; Contra Costa County recognizes the importance of helping all of its citizens access the quality of life benefits of the internet, and welcomes partnerships with other groups, agencies, and individuals sharing this important goal; and
Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County does hereby honor the collaborative efforts of community groups and government to bridge the digital divide and help all residents access the internet, regardless of income; and looks forward to working together on this critical mission.

KAREN MITCHOFF

Chair,
District IV Supervisor

JOHN GIOIA

District I Supervisor

CANDACE ANDERSEN

District II Supervisor

MARY N. PIEPHO

District III Supervisor

FEDERAL D. GLOVER

District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: February 25, 2014

David J. Twa,

By: _____, Deputy