

The Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, California

In the matter of honoring efforts at bridging the digital divide in Contra Costa County including the City of Richmond work of the Building Blocks for Kids Collaborative.

Resolution No. 2014/66

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 those 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, do not have easily accessible broadband access to the internet; and

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; and

WHEREAS, the Building Blocks for Kids Collaborative (BBK), a nonprofit organization working on neighborhood improvement in the City of 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 do not own a working computer, and that while half of the residents are regular computer users, public computer services such as that provided by 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 do not have it, more work needs to be done; and

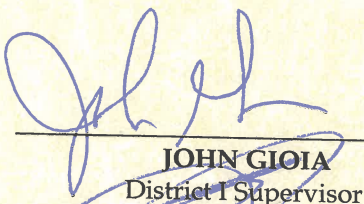
WHEREAS; Contra Costa County recognizes the importance of helping all of its citizens access the quality of life benefits of the internet, and welcomes partnerships with other groups, agencies, and individuals sharing this important goal.

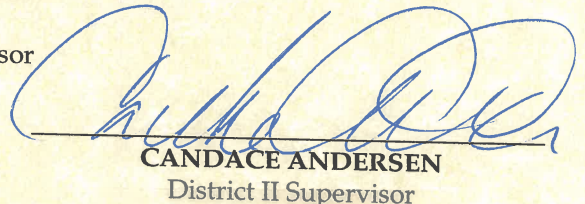
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County does hereby honor the collaborative efforts of community groups and government to bridge the digital divide and help all residents access the internet, regardless of income; and looks forward to working together on this critical mission.

PASSED by a unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors members present this 25th day of February, 2014.

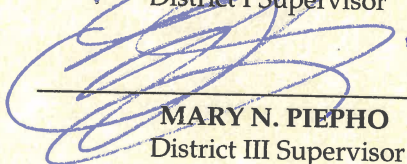

KAREN MITCHOFF

Chair,
District IV Supervisor


JOHN GIOIA
District I Supervisor


CANDACE ANDERSEN
District II Supervisor

ABSENT


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 TWA, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator

By  Deputy