





TO: John McDonough, City Manager

FROM: Eden Freeman, Assistant City Manager

DATE: April 30, 2014 for submission on the Agenda of the May 6, 2014 City Council Meeting

ITEM: Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Google Fiber

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## Background

In February, 2014, Google announced plans to explore expansion of their Google Fiber product to nine (9) additional metropolitan areas around the country. The City of Sandy Springs was included as one of nine communities for further research in the Metropolitan Atlanta area along with Atlanta, Avondale Estates, Brookhaven, College Park, Decatur, East Point, Hapeville, and Smyrna. Following the announcement, each city was provided the [Google Checklist](#) and tasked with collecting the requested information. Independent of Google, staff from each of the Metro Atlanta cities met via conference call each Monday to discuss issues and develop collaborative solutions to minimize impact on staff. In addition, the cities worked collaboratively to revise the draft Hut License Agreement proposed by Google and presented to Council.

## Discussion

During the March 4, 2014 Work Session of the City Council, an overview of the Google Fiber project was presented to Mayor and City Council. Staff was given the directive to continue the work necessary to respond to the requirements of the Checklist.

The collection of the data requested by the Checklist has involved an intensive process requiring staff to determine the best strategies for streamlining the proposed project. In addition, the checklist asked cities to do the following:

1. Provide information about existing infrastructure;
2. Help ensure access to existing infrastructure;
3. Help make construction speedy and predictable.

A primary component of this checklist is the Network Hut License Agreement. Google Fiber "huts" are part of the infrastructure needed to deliver service to residents. Each hut is approximately 12' x 30' in size, and can service approximately 20,000 customers. Each community is being asked to identify potential sites on city-owned property for these huts, and sign a license agreement outlining the rights and responsibilities of both parties. Staff has been working in close coordination with the City Attorney, and the other Atlanta-area communities to negotiate an agreement with Google. The primary

goals of this negotiation have been to create fair and equitable treatment for Google and for any other future fiber utility providers, as well as to protect the best interests of the City. This agreement will not be executed until Google completes their due diligence of the materials submitted by the City and determines a) whether or not they will move forward with installing the infrastructure and offering the service in Sandy Springs and b) if any suitable City property is available as a location for a fiber hut.

To date, the City has completed all data uploads (i.e. GIS data and comments on the requested permitting and construction process) required by the Checklist. The adoption of this Resolution approving the execution of additional required agreements will complete the City's response to the Checklist.

### **Alternatives**

Council could choose not to execute the Resolution, effectively ending the consideration of the City as a potential expansion location for Google Fiber.

### **Recommendation**

In order to complete the response to the requirements of the Checklist, the adoption of the attached resolution is recommended outlining the City Council's formal support for the project and authorizing the City Manager to execute necessary documents, including but not limited to the final Network Hut License Agreement.

### **Attachment**

1. Resolution Supporting the Google Fiber Project

STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF FULTON

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SANDY SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL  
SUPPORTING THE GOOGLE FIBER PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, Google Fiber (“Google”) has announced plans to expand its fiber optic network (“Project”) and is evaluating nine metropolitan areas across the United States of America as potential sites for such expansion; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Sandy Springs (“City”) is one nine cities in Metropolitan Atlanta being evaluated and considered by Google for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, Google has the potential to deliver internet speeds more than 100 times faster than currently available today with 1 gigabit per second, fiber-to-the-home connections; and

**WHEREAS**, in connection with the Project, City staff was required to provide extensive information to Google, as described in its City Checklist; and

**WHEREAS**, if chosen as an expansion site, City staff is prepared to work with Google to facilitate the efficient planning and construction processes involved with the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, City staff believes that the City of Sandy Springs would make an ideal candidate for the Project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Sandy Springs, Georgia, while in regular session on May 6, 2014, at 6:00 p.m., as follows:

1. The City Council recognizes the value of the Project and does hereby support City staff’s efforts to bring Google Fiber to the City of Sandy Springs; and
2. The City Manager and City staff are hereby authorized to take such actions as are deemed necessary or advisable to further the goals of this resolution; and
3. The City Manager, in consultation with the City Attorney, is hereby authorized to negotiate and execute all documents necessary to complete the City Checklist presented by Google Fiber including, but not limited to, the execution of a Network Hut License Agreement to be negotiated between Google Fiber and the City of Sandy Springs.

**RESOLVED** this the 6th day of May, 2014.

Approved:

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Rusty Paul, Mayor

Attest:

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Michael Casey, City Clerk  
(SEAL)