



# City of Hartford \* County of Van Buren \* State of Michigan

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**TO:** Mayor Hall and the Hartford Commission

**FROM:** Nicol Brown, City Manager

**DATE:** June 24, 2024

**RE:** Metro Act Permit for Surf Air Wireless LLC d/b/a Surf Internet

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## **ITEM BEFORE THE COMMISSION:**

The item before the Commission is approval of a METRO Act permit for Surf Air Wireless LLC d/b/a Surf Internet.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The city was approached by Surf Internet, an internet service provider serving parts of Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan. The company wants to construct a fiber optic cable infrastructure network through the City of Hartford. Surf Internet submitted an application to the city under the Metropolitan Extension Telecommunications Rights-of-Way Act known as "METRO Act" to use the city's public rights-of-way to install the company's fiber optic network. The METRO Act states, "A municipality shall approve or deny access under this section within 45 days from the date a provider files an application for a permit for access to the public right-of-way." MCL 484.3115(3). The Michigan Public Service Commission can impose fines of up to \$40,000 per day for violations of the METRO Act.

Surf Internet representatives presented all the information to Linnea Rader, Interim City Manager. I was told that the city commission approved Surf Internet's METRO Act permit. The Metro Act Right-of-Way Permit was executed before the 45-day deadline. Attorney Curio reviewed the information submitted by Surf Internet and found no reason for the city to deny the request.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

The City of Hartford City Commission approves the METRO Act permit for Surf Air Wireless LLC d/b/a Surf Internet to construct a fiber optic cable infrastructure network throughout Hartford.