

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: August 8, 2023

To: Village President and Board of Trustees

Through: Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

From: Tyler Hall, Assistant Village Manager

Topic: Chicago Southland Fiber Network – Fiber Optic Right of Entry

PURPOSE

Approve three (3) separate fiber optic *right of entry* and fiber optic *carrier equipment point of presence (POP)* site agreements between Cook County and the Village of Homewood for fiber conduit to be installed on or about the Village Hall, Fire and Police Departments, and Public Works buildings. Approval of these agreements will allow the Village to have access to lower cost, high-speed fiber internet services, allowing for more consistent and reliable internet access at competitive rates.

PROCESS

On January 16, 2020, the Cook County Board of Commissioners adopted a Resolution titled “Creating Digital Equity in Cook County” to address barriers to connectivity for unserved and underserved communities in Cook County. Connect Illinois is a \$420 million initiative led by the State of Illinois focused on expanding access to reliable high-speed internet access across the State. In 2020, Cook County applied for and received a Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program award of \$1,876,580.48 for expansion of broadband infrastructure in underserved areas of Cook County. A portion of Cook County’s ARPA allocation was leveraged with this award to focus the efforts of installing broadband fiber infrastructure in the Chicago Southland communities.

To implement this program award, Cook County partnered with South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA) and Urbancom.net. This partnership led to the creation of the Chicago-Southland Fiber Network (CSFN), a not-for-profit corporation, which will support and own the assets of the Southland’s Fiber Optic Network. The CSFN consists of more than 60 miles of high-speed fiber optic backbone infrastructure along the I-57 corridor, linking Southland Chicago municipalities, public safety sites, community colleges, and business access sites.

This infrastructure provides high-capacity internet services and Illinois Century Network access for education and public institutions. It also connects the region to dark fiber resources at

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competitive rates to use for point-to-point or multi-point network, data applications and new technology including high-speed wireless communications, smart phones, and mobile applications. The goal of the project is to improve efficiency, offer public sector organizations and local businesses new ways to deliver services, and promote economic development, expanding the Network over time and making the Southland a better place to live and work.

OUTCOME

Access to high-speed fiber internet services at Village Hall, Fire and Police Departments, and Public Works buildings.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** N/A
- **Budgeted Amount:** N/A
- **Cost:** N/A

LEGAL REVIEW

Completed

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Approve three (3) separate fiber optic *right of entry* and fiber optic *carrier equipment point of presence (POP)* site agreements between Cook County and the Village of Homewood for fiber conduit to be installed on or about the Village Hall, Fire and Police Departments, and Public Works buildings.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- Right of Entry – Point of Presence Site Agreement – Village Hall
- Right of Entry – Point of Presence Site Agreement – Fire & Police
- Right of Entry – Point of Presence Site Agreement – Public Works