

# EXECUTIVE BRIEF SPECIAL MEETING

**AGENDA DATE:** June 18, 2020

**DEPARTMENT:** Commission

**TITLE:**

Report update on the Lake Worth Beach, School District and Palm Beach County (ISS) WiFi Project brought forward by Mayor Triolo and Vice Mayor Amoroso

**SUMMARY:**

The WiFi project Report Update will provide the Commission and the public an overview of the ongoing effort to provide Broadband WiFi services to students and their families who might not otherwise be able to afford the requisite level of connectivity for learning from home.

**BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION:**

The City, School District and Palm Beach County have been working together to address the digital divide for students and their families within Lake Worth Beach. The recognition that there were many students who did not have home access to adequate or any internet services led to a partnership with the School District and Palm Beach County. The goal has been to find a way to install and operate a WiFi system throughout the City for access by students who are in need. Almost 4 years earlier, with the leadership of the CRA and LWB Electric Utilities staff, the City participated in a similar WiFi grant application to fund a similar project. Unfortunately, the grant was unsuccessful and the needs in the community persist.

The current COVID-19 closures of schools and libraries has exacerbated the problems with internet access as children are having to do their school work from home. The ability to access reliable internet services regardless of ability to pay, directly affects the learning process especially during the pandemic. As part of the CARES Act, funding has been identified to help with the implementation of free WiFi for students in Lake Worth Beach.

It is important to remember that the City's Electric Utility by providing access to poles and electricity will require specific Commission action. This will involve possible in-kind contributions of our pole access fees and charges normally charged to private sector companies.

**MOTION:**

N/A

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

Fiscal Impact Analysis – N/A