

RESOLUTION 21-21

To create the Lincoln Parish Broadband Commission to study the current impediments to rural access to broadband service, to devise solutions to achieve parishwide access to broadband high-speed internet service, and to seek funding sources for such access.

WHEREAS, in the modern economy, rural broadband is a lifeline to quality of life and economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, while broadband high-speed internet service is abundantly available in Louisiana cities, it is woefully absent in the rural areas of the state; and

WHEREAS, according to the federal government, eighty percent of the twenty-four million American households who lack reliable, affordable, high-speed internet are in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, through various agencies, is currently making investments in broadband infrastructures to help transform rural America, providing innovation and technology to increase economic competitiveness and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the federal government currently provides loans and grants to increase high-speed internet access in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, the Lincoln Parish Police Jury supports Federal and State efforts to expand rural broadband service; and

WHEREAS, a commission to study and seek solutions concerning rural access to broadband service would be the best way to obtain funding for achieving parishwide access to high-speed internet broadband service.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lincoln Parish Police Jury hereby creates the Lincoln Parish Broadband Commission to study the current impediments to rural access to broadband service in Lincoln Parish, to devise solutions to achieve parishwide access to high-speed internet broadband service, and to seek funding sources for such access.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be comprised of the following members:

1. The Lincoln Parish Sheriff or his/her designee
2. The Lincoln Parish School Board Superintendent or his/her designee
3. One representative from rural private or charter schools
4. The President of Grambling State University or his/her designee

5. The President of Louisiana Tech University or his/her designee
6. One representative of rural healthcare providers
7. One representative from the Grambling Chamber of Commerce
8. The Mayor of the City of Ruston or his/her designee
9. One representative of the Lincoln Parish Police Jury
10. One representative of rural Lincoln Parish municipality mayors
11. One representative from the agriculture industry
12. One representative from the forestry industry
13. One representative from rural utility providers
14. One representative from minority business owners
15. One representative from faith-based organizations
16. Two at-large members

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that task force members shall be Lincoln Parish residents or be employees or owners of businesses in Lincoln Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that task force members shall serve without compensation or reimbursement of expense for two years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the membership of the task force constitutes a quorum.