



December 13, 2007

Matt Czajkowski  
Bill Thorpe  
Ed Harrison  
Mark Kleinschmidt  
Bill Strom  
Laura Easthorn  
Sally Greens  
Jim Ward, Mayor pro tem  
Kevin Foy, Mayor  
405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Dear Mr. Foy:

We would like to petition the Chapel Hill Town Council to place Internet wireless access points in the following public housing communities: Craig-Gomains, Lindsay Street, North Columbia Street, Trinity Court, South Estes Drive, Oakwood, Rainbow Heights, Pritchard Park, Airport Gardens, Eastwood, and Colony Woods West. These public housing neighborhoods have many school-aged residents that would benefit from a wireless connection to the Internet.

We applaud the Town's recent wireless pilot project. We believe that providing wireless access is an important piece of the digital divide puzzle. We understand that the Town may be looking for additional sites to place wireless access points in our community. We would like to advocate for locating these in public housing communities and historically underserved neighborhoods. These are the locations of greatest need. We would also like to partner with you and collaborate with community organizations and corporate sponsors to develop a solution that places the tools of the future in the hands of our most needy students and families.

I'm sure that you would agree that Internet access is an essential tool for learning and competing in today's world. Having access to the Internet at school and at home has become a basic need. Although the majority of Chapel Hill's students and their families have Internet access at home, many do not. A recent survey revealed that approximately 8% or 983 of our students did not have access at home.

Please let us know how we can work together to further the Town's municipal wireless network and provide access to families without this vital resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela S. Hemminger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping underline.

Pamela S. Hemminger  
School Board Chairperson

C: Board of Education