

From: Carol Abernethy
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 10:18 AM
To: 'Mike Kelley'
Cc: Bob Avery; Ken Pennoyer; 'Bill Strom'; Bill Thorpe; Ed Harrison; Jim Ward; Jim Ward (w) ; Kevin Foy; Laurin Easthom; Mark Kleinschmidt; Matt Czajkowski ; Sally Greene (w); Amy Harvey; Carlo Robustelli; Catherine Lazorko; Dwight Bassett; Roger Stancil; Sabrina Oliver; Sandy Kline; Bruce Heflin; Flo Miller; Ralph Karpinos; Toni Pendergraph
Subject: Email RE: wireless access points in public housing

Thank you for your email. A copy has been forwarded to each Council Member and to senior staff members.

Carol Abernethy
Exec. Asst., Manager's Office
Town of Chapel Hill

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike Kelley [mailto:mkelley3@nc.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2008 2:30 PM
To: Town Council
Subject: wireless access points in public housing

Dear Mayor Foy and Members of the Town Council,

I am writing to encourage you to support expanding the Town's pilot wireless project into public housing units. Internet access has become an essential aspect of participating in today's society, as I am sure each of you realize from your own use of this medium. Many apartment buildings in town now include some type of high speed internet access as part of the infrastructure. Lack of internet access in the home places those in public housing units at a distinct disadvantage in finding jobs, communicating with friends and family, accessing information, and communicating with public officials.

Not only does a lack of internet access present a barrier to full participation in today's society but is itself also a barrier to access the means to become a full participant. For example, attempts to date by the school district to place computers in the homes of students who do not have them have largely been thwarted due to cost and logistical problems in accessing the internet. Students who don't have internet access are at significant disadvantage and will continue to be at a disadvantage if a solution is not implemented.

I hope you will extend the town's wireless project into public housing facilities.

Thanks for your service to the town.

Mike Kelley