

Amy Harvey

From: Carol Abernethy
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 12:35 PM
To: 'tarheel@thepeters.org'
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: Agenda item 5a: Wireless for 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: Web Site
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 12:14 PM
To: Manager; Town Council
Cc: tarheel@thepeters.org
Subject: Agenda item 5a: Wireless for Public Housing

Message sent by tarheel@thepeters.org

Mayor and Council Members,

I support the provision of wireless services to our low income housing complexes. My older child does much of her homework using the school system's "Connect2School" program. After logging in, she has access to all of the school system programs (Excel, Word, Powerpoint, etc) and can complete school assignments. She can even turn them in by dropping them into the homework folder! She can do this because we own a computer and have high-speed internet access.

Every time she does homework I wonder how kids who don't have such ready access to a computer and the internet can possibly keep up. I have spoken with teachers and they make every effort to provide this access during study breaks and the after school program, but it is often still not enough. Many of these families can't even use dialup for the internet because their only phone is a mobile phone.

Please support our children's education and the school system's efforts to eliminate the achievement gap and the digital divide.

I would also like the school system and town to explore newer wide-area solutions like WiMax for future deployments. Given the challenges with provisioning electrical service for large numbers of WiFi access points, trying to find unused channels with the proliferation of neighbors' WiFi, etc., WiMax may allow you to install significantly fewer access points and cover even larger areas.

Thanks,
Mark Peters
(Currently serving as PTA Council President and Smith Middle School School Improvement Team Parent Chair, but not speaking for them in this email)

Reference: <http://townhall.townofchapelhill.org/agendas/2008/02/25/5a/>