

# NEWS



# NEWS

## MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

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John F. Street, Mayor  
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### **Mayor John F. Street Announces “Wireless Philadelphia” Business Plan** *Proposal Will Broaden Broadband Access and Narrow the Digital Divide*

**PHILADELPHIA** - Today, Mayor John F. Street rolled out the details of his visionary “Wireless Philadelphia.” Joining Mayor Street at the City Hall press conference were members of the Wireless Philadelphia Executive Committee, who drafted the Wireless Philadelphia business plan. In 2004, when Mayor Street appointed the diverse 17-person committee, he charged the members with developing a public-private partnership to provide wireless Internet access throughout the city. Key goals were to enhance economic development, help overcome the digital divide and to improve the quality of life for every resident and business. “Wireless Philadelphia” also promises to enhance the visitor experience.

“Today is a great day for Philadelphia and the thousands of businesses and tens of thousands of families and children who will benefit from our Wireless initiative,” Mayor Street said. “Just as roads and transportation were keys to our past, a digital infrastructure and wireless technology are keys to our future. To ensure Philadelphia is a 21<sup>st</sup> century city, we now must begin planning for the next generation.”

Mayor Street also announced the formation of “Wireless Philadelphia” as a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation and issued the release of the nonprofit’s RFP, available for download at [www.phila.gov/wireless](http://www.phila.gov/wireless) and [www.phila.gov/rfp](http://www.phila.gov/rfp).

In June 2004, the City began making wireless technology available in Love Park at JFK Plaza. By May 2005, there will be at least a dozen “hot zones” where people can login to use the service. Today’s proposal allows commercial or institutional service providers to begin to deliver broadband access to the Internet over the to be built citywide wireless infrastructure by the end of the year.

“The Wireless Philadelphia Executive Committee has done an excellent job of building a plan to lay the foundation for Philadelphia as a Digital City and to make broadband affordable for every resident, business and visitor to the City,” said Dianah Neff, Philadelphia’s Chief Information Officer. “The benefits of this transformative technology are broad and far-reaching. I am extremely proud of the work they have done and look forward to helping implement their proposal on behalf of the Mayor.”

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## **Wireless Philadelphia**

### **Page 2**

Critical to the “Wireless Philadelphia” proposal announced today is how this initiative will help overcome a lingering “digital divide,” the economic and social disadvantage experienced by those without affordable access to technology. Government has long worked to ensure key infrastructure be made available to its citizens, including the deployment of electricity and phone services. In that same spirit, Philadelphia’s proposal will help low-income and disadvantaged individuals and businesses gain unprecedented access to technology.

“This is not just an investment in a new technology, it’s an investment in the people of Philadelphia,” Mayor Street added. “This is good for the city, our residents and our visitors. Today, we begin building the infrastructure for tomorrow’s knowledge economy.”

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## **Wireless Philadelphia Executive Committee**

- Dianah L. Neff, Chief Information Officer for the City of Philadelphia
- Richard Bendis, president and CEO of Innovation Philadelphia
- Robert S. Bright, president of Talson Solutions, LLC
- Bruce Crawley, president and CEO of Crawley Haskins Sloan and Chairman of African/American Chamber of Commerce
- Dr. James P. Gallagher, president of Philadelphia University
- Kenny Gamble, Chairman of Universal Companies
- Kevin Greenberg, Sonora Associates
- Naomi Howard, president of ABSS, Inc.
- Avrum Kantor, VP of Technology, PIDC
- Meryl Levitz, president and CEO of the Greater Philadelphia Tourism and Marketing Corporation (GPTMC)
- Peter Longstreth, president of the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation
- Richard Miller, VP Marketing/Communications of Innovation Philadelphia
- Samuel J. Patterson, owner and CEO of Veridyne, Inc
- Patricia Renzulli, CIO of the Philadelphia School District
- Varinia C. Robinson, Mayor's Office of Information Services
- Ed Schwartz, president of the Institute for the Study of Civic Values
- Patricia Smith, Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Transformation
- Veronica Wentz, New Media Director, GPTMC
- Paul Vallas, CEO of the School Board of Philadelphia

## **About Wireless Philadelphia**

Wireless Philadelphia is a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation that promotes economic development and social enhancement in the City of Philadelphia through the deployment of a citywide wireless network and the management of programs aligned with its charter.

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