Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: City of Quincy FL

Project Title: Quincy Community Wireless Network

Project Type: Last Mile Non-Remote

_____Executive Summary_____

Opportunity the Proposed System Seeks to Address The City of Quincy, Florida proposes a last-mile infrastructure project to deploy a fixed wireless network. Our goal is to provide improved broadband access to the underserved area in our rural community of 6,982 residents, 3,995 household and 330 businesses. A variety of factors create the need for this project: a. The downturn in the economy and shrinking City revenues caused a 30% reduction in the number of police officers and firefighters as part of the government overall effort to reduce headcount and consolidate functions to gain efficiencies and eliminate costs; b. Citizens limited access to the internet and computer resources to locate and find jobs which resulted in the recent closing this year of two top 10 businesses-Imperial Nursery and Quincy Farms; c. An unemployment rate of 11.9%, several percentage points above the State average, that dramatize the necessity to train an adaptable and well educated workforce capable of working for a diverse range of new businesses; d. The closing of the county hospital and the resulting long commutes for acute emergency medical care; e. Lack of student access to the internet for class curriculum, homework or class assignment posted on-line contribute to declining/underperforming city schools; f. A belief in the business community that declining/felling schools and students' low academic achievement on the FCAT stunts economic and businesses growth in the community; g. Limited access to medical resources and the inability of healthcare providers to deliver health education information in an inexpensive, swift, and informative content display via a multi modal broadband wireless network platform to citizens; h. Low household internet subscription rates of whatever bandwidth among households with median incomes of $29,393 and among the 16.8% of families whose incomes fall below the poverty line, which strangles economic opportunity and constrain academic achievement; and i. The need to increase the efficiency of a smaller public safety departments through greater use of broadband technology to maintain levels of services and protect police, sheriff deputies, firemen and the public. A community-led effort is the optimal means to promote the reliable and sustainable availability of broadband services, to promote job creation, increase academic performance, improve health outcomes and ensure the most widespread improvement in the experience of our residents, businesses, and service providers. This project will provide improved services to underserved and low-income customers who lack meaningful access to higher-speed services today. The project would provide internet access at lower rates to students without access to the internet, connect nearly all of the county government buildings and provide more bandwidth at substantially lower cost, build a wireless network infrastructure to notify the public in disasters and provide health content information on chronic ailments facing the community, give public safety responders a tool to increase efficiency and stop crime, and promote the use of telemedicine. Moreover, our Anchor Institutions, critical community

facilities, and Public Safety Entities have developed plans to improve their own services to residents based upon the enhanced broadband access available through this project. These plans are summarized in the Support Letters provided with documentation for Item #41. For example, our Police and county Sheriff departments would improve their interoperability and obtain improved access to federal and state databases, the county parental resource center would incorporate internet training for low income parents into its Information Resource Mobile Unit, our schools would provide laptop computers at no cost or a substantially reduce cost to students and institute a homework hotline to help middle school students access educational web services, and our community's hospital, emergency medical service, and health department would establish video links from ambulances to hospitals and connect doctors to specialized medical centers located elsewhere and provide teledentistry to the community. Finally, a key aspect to sustaining the use of this network is to introduce accessible and effective computer and internet training across our community. Through an accompanying Sustainable Adoption Application, we seek funding to support collaboration with the National Education Foundation whose mission is to bridge the academic, digital and employment divides. We will gain access to a broad array of online training courses, and to trainers and counselors that will work with our librarians, educators and citizens to conduct end-user training across our entire community. This overall effort will support the personal and professional development of our citizens, and will improve the attractiveness of our region to new companies. Proposed Funded Service Areas and Number of Households and Businesses Passed The proposed funded service area would cover approximately 32 square miles and 365 contiguous census blocks. Three thousand and nine hundred and ninety five (3,995) households and 330 businesses would be passed by the network. Maps showing the proposed coverage area are included with this application. Number of Community Anchor Institutions Passed and/or Involved with the Project The project passes 17 institutions, of which 12 specifically expressed supported for the project. We are pleased to have broad support for this project from key leaders in our community including our Mayor, Chief of Police, Fire Chief, Superintendent of School, Director, Gadsden County Health Department, President of the Gadsden County Hospital Board, Gadsden County Sheriff, County EMS Director and Chairman, Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners, and Gadsden Community Redevelopment Agency. The involvement and support of these Municipal Departments and Key Anchor Institutions will ensure broad and sustained usage of this wireless broadband network. Proposed Services and Applications for the Proposed Funded Service Areas and Users We will offer public internet access through a wireless broadband network with speeds in excess of 1 Mbps upstream and downstream to any user in the serving area with a standard WiFi device. Through the use of the open wireless infrastructure described further herein, any standard WiFi device (used by the public and by Police, Fire, ambulances, city workers, etc.) will be able to access the network across the city limits with a few exceptions where there are no dwellings or businesses. The various applications to use this network detailed further in the attached Support Letters. Non-Discrimination and Interconnection Obligations The network would allow interconnection and competitive wholesale access for many different users, including other service providers. From an economic development perspective, a wireless broadband grant funded network owned by the City is complementary to incumbent service providers and a number of mutually beneficial relationships are possible, including use of the proposed grant funded network by incumbent wireless operators who wish to complement current services by offering mobile wireless access or by cellular providers who would use wholesale bandwidth access from this network to offload their own 3G

networks. We would support network openness consistent with the Internet Policy Statement of the Federal Communications Commission, and we would not favor any particular lawful content or applications over others. Our network management practices would be transparent to the community and posted on public websites. Type of Broadband System This project utilizes wireless mesh broadband technology to provide the greatest broadband speed possible to the greatest population of users in the area. Specifically, we are proposing an open-standard based unlicensed WiFi (802.11) wireless service utilizing Tropos Networks mesh broadband wireless technology. The architecture will also include other wireless technology, such as point-to-multipoint and point-to-point radios and consumer wireless modems. Qualifications of the Applicant The proposed project will be sustainable on both a short-term and long-term basis. We have selected Honeywell to lead our project deployment effort and have issued Honeywell a Letter of Intent. As a $38 billion diversified technology and manufacturing leader based in Morris Township, NJ, Honeywell has the financial strength and project management expertise to ensure that our project will be a success. Honeywell will work closely with Tropos Networks for project implementation, training, and service management. Our City's IT, Utilities, and Public Works Departments will be involved in the deployment of the project and are qualified to maintain this system following deployment. The City already operates and maintains a fiber-based broadband network. John Thomas, IT Director, was initially recruited to establish and manage the enterprise-wide fiber to the home program and the City Network in 2003. The IT Department will handle network administration with support from other City departments for the public customer service Call Center, accounting and billing, maintenance and repairs. Honeywell and Tropos will train our Departments so that they can effectively maintain and administer the system. Overall Infrastructure Cost The total project costs are $10,688,103. The City will provide funding for 20.3% match through the use of expenditures on existing backhaul infrastructure. We are seeking a grant for the remaining amount of $8,514,430. Job Creation In addition to the substantial economic and public service benefits for the rural communities to be served by this project, we expect this project to create a total of 92 jobs.