

R2020-160

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MAGNOLIA, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF
NEW JERSEY SUPPORTING HIGH-SPEED INTERNET ACCESSIBILITY**

WHEREAS, rural areas of the State of New Jersey are service providers with respect to aerial line high-speed internet service; and

WHEREAS, having access to aerial line high-speed internet service is a necessary and vital of living in today's society; and

WHEREAS, the recent pandemic of COVID-19 further illustrates just how vital access to aerial line high-speed internet has become to society, especially during the times of crisis or emergencies and how not having access to aerial line high-speed internet has the potential to cripple a community, particularly a rural one, denying the community the capacity for remote student learning and remote working arrangements with a resident's employer; and

FURTHERMORE, during a time of crisis not having access to aerial line high-speed internet has the potential to shut down all function of government by denying essential employees and elected officials the ability to work, communicate, distribute information, conduct meetings, and perform the other requirements of a functioning government through remote capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Magnolia believes that the service providers of aerial line high-speed internet in the State of New Jersey are more than capable of and financially sound enough to achieve a 100% rate of aerial line high-speed internet accessibility but choose not to pursue that goal unless forced to through regulation because the providers feel it is not profitable; and

WHEREAS, not having access to aerial line high-speed internet service is a plight on students, reducing their educational opportunities and the ability to learn in a modern world; and

WHEREAS, not having access to aerial line high-speed internet service could potentially have life and death consequences for the elderly or those with various health complications; and

WHEREAS, not having access to aerial line high-speed internet service causes a great burden to businesses, places them at a disadvantage, and reduces the chances for economic development in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, not having access to aerial line high-speed internet service can cause rural healthcare facilities to shut down because they cannot access required networks to function, thereby further creating negative impacts on New Jersey residents' health; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Magnolia is desirous of assisting and cooperating with other public entities and State officials to pursue a petition before the Board of Public Utilities to enact regulations requiring a 100% rate of aerial line high-speed

internet accessibility in each individual municipality throughout the State of New Jersey; and

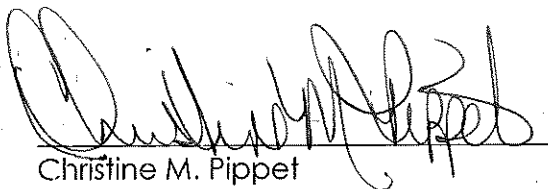
WHEREAS, unless the Board of Public Utilities requires service providers aerial line high-speed internet to provide 100% aerial line high-speed internet access in all Municipalities throughout New Jersey, the State will have unintentionally subverted the public's significant investment in the Highlands Preservation Zones, farmland, and open space preservation by not allowing those areas' businesses to be economically competitive and viable over the long term.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Municipal Council of the Borough of Magnolia, County of Camden, State of New Jersey that the Board of Public Utilities is requested to order all service providers of aerial line high-speed internet to provide aerial line high-speed internet service to all municipalities throughout the State with each municipality being afforded a 100% rate of high-speed internet accessibility; and

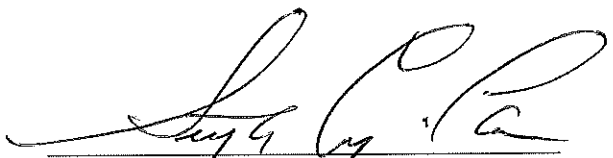
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that our State representatives use their authority to require service providers of aerial line high-speed internet to achieve a 100% rate of high-speed internet access for each individual municipality throughout the State of New Jersey; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Clerk for the Borough of Magnolia be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the Senate President of the New Jersey State Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly of the State of New Jersey, the Camden County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the Board of Public Utilities.

Adopted: October 15, 2020



Christine M. Pippet
Acting Borough Clerk
Borough of Magnolia



BettyAnn Cowling-Carson, Mayor
Borough of Magnolia