

**RESOLUTION 2020-105  
REGARDING HIGH SPEED INTERNET ACCESS  
TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE, BURLINGTON COUNTY  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**WHEREAS**, rural areas of the State of New Jersey are serviced by 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 part 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 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**, that during a time of crisis not having access to aerial line high-speed internet has the potential to shut down many functions 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**, Florence Township 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 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 chances for economic development in non-serviced areas; and

**WHEREAS**, not having access to aerial line high-speed internet service can cause 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**, Florence Township's successful commitment to farmland preservation and managed development has delivered to Florence Township the unintended penalty of being good stewards of the environment through farmland preservation while preventing Florence Township from ever having the population density to cost-justify a telecommunications infrastructure build out in the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, other non-serviced municipalities experience this same burden due to their demographic characteristics and environmental stewardship; and

**WHEREAS**, Florence Township 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 of aerial line high-speed internet to provide 100% aerial line high-speed internet access in Florence Township and all municipalities throughout New Jersey, the State will have unintentionally subverted the public's significant investment in managed development, and farmland & open space preservation by not allowing those preserved farm businesses to be economically competitive and viable over the long term.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE** Township Council of the Township of Florence in Burlington County 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 aerial line 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 clerk for the Township of Florence 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 Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the Board of Public Utilities; and

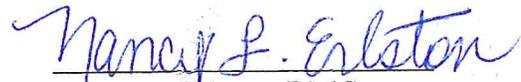
**BE IT FURTHERMORE RESOLVED**, that the clerk for the Township of Florence be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the clerks of all 565 municipalities in the State, encouraging them to pass similar resolutions so that during times of crisis and emergency all New Jersey residents have access to the vital resource of aerial line high-speed internet access thus allowing employees to work remotely, healthcare providers to function, governments to continue to function ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of residents, and also so that all children in the State of New Jersey have an equal opportunity to access information critical to furthering their educations.

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**I, NANCY L. ERLSTON**, Clerk of the Township of Florence, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true copy of the Resolution approved by Township Council at their May 20, 2020 meeting.

  
Nancy L. Erlston, RMC  
Township Clerk