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WIRELESS PHILADELPHIA ENTERS FINAL CONTRACT DISCUSSIONS WITH EARTHLINK

Wi-Fi Project Will Provide Broadband Access Throughout Philadelphia

Philadelphia, October 3, 2005 — Wireless Philadelphia, a non-profit group incorporated by Mayor John F. Street, announced today it has entered into final contract negotiations with Earthlink to develop and build the nation's largest municipal Wi-Fi broadband network.

By entering into final negotiations with Earthlink, Wireless Philadelphia moves one step closer to fulfilling Mayor Street's vision of a wireless Philadelphia with Internet access in every city neighborhood. Wireless Philadelphia's goal is to help citizens, businesses, schools, and community groups bridge the digital divide and make better use of wireless technology.

Wireless Philadelphia and Earthlink have reached agreement on the major business terms of a contract, and are working to complete a definitive agreement within the next 60 days. Under Earthlink's proposal, no city tax dollars will be used to fund the building of WiFi infrastructure.

"Philadelphia is one step closer to becoming the first completely wireless city in the country," Mayor Street said. "Wireless Philadelphia will be our City's bridge across the digital divide, helping to ensure all our citizens have the opportunity to compete effectively in the knowledge economy of the 21st Century."

Once a contract is signed, EarthLink will implement a 135-square mile, city-wide Wi-Fi mesh network, expected to be operational by the fourth quarter of 2006. The network will provide:

- Inexpensive, high-speed Internet access
- Open access for multiple, competing service providers
- Roaming capabilities for providers of hot spot access
- Free Internet access in some parks and public spaces
- Daily and weekly access for occasional users and visitors
- Small business connectivity and serve as a wireless T-1 alternative.

EarthLink will help Wireless Philadelphia promote ‘digital inclusion’ by offering qualifying Philadelphia residents discounted Internet access at approximately \$10.00 per month. For other residential subscribers to the network, retail rates are estimated to be under \$20.00 per month.

“EarthLink is excited to work with the City of Philadelphia to help deploy the largest wireless broadband network in the country,” said Garry Betty, EarthLink’s president and chief executive officer. “Our partnership with Wireless Philadelphia will not only promote digital inclusion, it will expand the City of Philadelphia’s leadership position of using wireless technology to meet the needs of its residents, and enhance Philadelphia’s visitor, tourism and business climate.”

Philadelphia’s wireless plans are attracting national attention. In an article released this week, National Geographic Traveler magazine named Philadelphia America’s “Next Great City” – and cited “WiFi” as one reason. “How do you knit together a rapidly diversifying city?” the magazine asked, before detailing the wireless plan and answering: “Use invisible thread.”

No city dollars will be used under the proposal. EarthLink will finance, build and manage the wireless network, and provide revenue-sharing fees to support Wireless Philadelphia. A 15-square-mile area will be constructed initially. When that phase is completed, Wireless Philadelphia and EarthLink will begin building out the remainder of the City wireless network.

About Wireless Philadelphia: Wireless Philadelphia is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation incorporated in March to develop a public/private partnership to achieve wireless access throughout the City to enhance economic development in neighborhoods, help overcome the digital divide, and improve quality of life for all Philadelphians. High-speed, low cost wireless access is an essential element of a long-term strategy to invest in the City’s workers, residents, and perhaps most importantly, the future of its children. Learn more at www.wirelessphiladelphia.org

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