

City of Alexandria, Virginia
Commission on Information Technology

May 19, 2022 IT Commission Meeting Minutes
7:00 – 8:30 PM
Virtual Meeting

In attendance: Brandon Mosoriak (BM), Sara Crifasi (SC), Ricardo Alfaro (RA), Catharine Rice (CR), Chris Soghoian (CS), Steve Davidson (SD), Tim Casey (TC), Stephen Morris (SM), J.D. Maddox (JM), Sundar Kanagarajan (SK), Vice Mayor Amy Jackson (AJ)

Staff: Vanetta Pledger, Smail Farid, Tori Butler, Patrick Eze, Bryan Smith, Berkeley Teate, Steve Chozick

Others: Kara Chandeysson (Ting), Howard Wise (public) and Virginia Martin (public)

1. Introductions and Welcome

2. Approval of March 17, 2022 Minutes: unanimous (motion by RA, seconded by SC)

3. Ting Presentation (Kara Chandeysson)

- Kara shared a presentation about Ting coming to Alexandria, along with a video that explains microtrenching technology.
- Ting plans on providing free gigabit internet to 5% of affordable housing units for five years.
- Ting will be providing Affordable Connectivity Program benefits in Alexandria.
- Build-out will begin in July, they hope to have the first customers online by the end of 2022.
- Ting has divided the City into five zones for build-out purposes. The first zone to be built-out will be the northeast part of the City.
- CS: Is Ting trying to beat Verizon FiOS to the market? How will Ting try to stay competitive in the market? Ting will be building fast, but the pace is not determined by competitors.
- CR: Why did Ting choose Alexandria? Ting already has a presence on the east coast. Charlottesville, which is a Ting city, is similar to Alexandria: historic area, demographics.
- SD: Does Ting charge for hardware? Ting is currently redeveloping this area, they often provide free routers.
- SD: What are the borders of the build zones? They are in the franchise agreement.
- SC: Since Ting doesn't have users sign contracts, what will pricing stability look like? Pricing hasn't changed in last five years. Ting often will offer a lower cost, lower speed product when there is a need for it in a market.
- SK: Will pricing differ between single-family and multi-family housing? The pricing options will be the same. Business pricing will vary, and sometimes HOAs work on bulk deals.
- RA: What is Ting's approach to working in the different languages used throughout the City? Ting is aware of this, and will work with the City where possible to hire locally to assist with this.
- JM: Ensure to communicate the progress of their build-out with the various neighborhoods throughout the City.

4. Update on City's Fiber Backbone Project (Patrick Eze)

- Updated map was shared, project is on schedule.

- 6.5 miles are complete, 29.5 miles to go.
- 107 handholes installed, 576 to go. There have been some supply chain issues with these. Otherwise, project is on schedule.

5. Cybersecurity/Disinformation Committee Update (Tim Casey and Steve Davidson)

- The information security page on the City's website needs some updating.
- Does the City have the cybersecurity resources it needs?
- What are the City's policies around cybersecurity? Vanetta is going to ask the City's CISO, Anthony Harvey, to come to a future meeting to discuss.
- CS: Does the City take advantage of CISA's free cyberhygiene tests? Vanetta is going to look into this.

6. Charter Rewrite Committee Update (Catharine Rice, Chris Soghoian)

- No updates at this time.

7. Adjourn by unanimous vote at 8:30 pm (next meeting TBD in the fall).