

NEWS



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MAYOR JOHN F. STREET ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF WIRELESS PHILADELPHIA™ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PHILADELPHIA — Mayor John F. Street today announced the appointment of the Wireless Philadelphia™ Executive Committee to explore the opportunity for Philadelphia to become the first large city in the United States to provide city-wide wireless access.

Appointed by Mayor John F. Street in July 2004, the Wireless Philadelphia™ Executive Committee (Committee) will work with the City's Chief Information Officer Dianah Neff to create a business plan for a digital infrastructure for Philadelphia. In late November, the Committee is scheduled to deliver their Business, Funding Strategy and Communications plans to Mayor Street for review.

The Committee's mission is to promote citywide connectivity; act as an advocate of wireless community networking; provide a forum for wireless networking and formulate recommendations in several policy areas including fees, roles and responsibilities, extent of service, privacy and security.

The talents and areas of interest represented by the Committee will help identify funding sources and partnerships as part of the business plan. Neff states, "This will increase visibility and heighten the importance of wireless technology and its benefits in the areas of tourism, economic development, small businesses and to the residents of the City of Philadelphia. We will create a wireless communications infrastructure that will offer solutions and benefits to students who don't live on campus as well as parents and small businesses who otherwise would not be able to access the world-wide-web."

Mayor John F. Street wants Philadelphia to be positioned competitively in the regional and global marketplace. "Philadelphia hasn't had a first in technology since the Univac®," said Mayor John Street. "We must prepare our business and citizens to face the challenges of the future. Just like roads and transportation were keys to our past, a digital infrastructure and wireless technology are keys to our future."

(more)

Wireless Philadelphia Executive Committee

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Chaired by Neff, the Committee includes: Richard Bendis, Innovation Philadelphia; Patricia Smith, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Transformation; Peter Longstreth, Industrial Development Corp.; Bruce Crawley, Crawley Haskins Sloan, Meryl Levitz, GPTMC; Robert S. Bright, Talson Solutions; Dr. James Gallagher, Philadelphia University; Kenny Gamble, Universal Community Homes; Edward Schwartz, Institute for the Study of Civic Values; Paul Vallas, School Board of Philadelphia; Samuel Patterson, Veridyne; Naomi Howard, ABSS, Inc. and Kevin Greenberg, Esquire.

Wireless Philadelphia™ will work to create a digital infrastructure for open-air internet access and to help citizens, businesses, schools, and community organizations make effective use of this technology to achieve their goals while providing a greater experience for visitors to the City. The Committee will work to identify possible legal and regulatory barriers and help develop strategies to overcome them.

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