

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SPECTRUM SHARING IN THE 5.9 GHZ BAND FOR WI-FI

SPONSORED BY Vivian Covington (University Park, IL)

WHEREAS, the African American Mayors Association (AAMA) recognizes the importance of Wi-Fi technology to American cities and that in 2017 the technologies currently operating in unlicensed spectrum bands in the United States generated a total economic value of \$525 billion per year to the nation's GDP, anticipated to grow to an estimated \$834 billion per year by 2020.

WHEREAS, free Wi-Fi traffic reached 2,186 million Gigabytes per year in 2017, and is anticipated to reach 4,624 million Gigabytes per year in 2020, highlighting the ability of Wi-Fi technology to bridge the digital divide and create economically sustainable communities of color while also enhancing the quality of life in these communities; and

WHEREAS, AAMA supports the deployment of 5G wireless technology which will provide American communities with wireless speeds between 1-10Gbps (10-100 times faster than 4G) but which relies on both licensed and unlicensed spectrum including carrier grade Wi-Fi hotspots.

WHEREAS, spectrum, the invisible infrastructure of electromagnetic airwaves used to transfer information wirelessly is a finite resource and increased demand has caused available spectrum to be in short supply in many large metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, spectrum in the 5.9 GHz band is currently designated for automotive-specific, dedicated short range communications (DSRC) services, but after 20 years the technology has not been widely deployed in cars, leaving the 5.9 GHz band empty in the vast majority of the country and underutilized in the rest.

WHEREAS, recent testing by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has determined that the 5.9 GHz band can support both existing DSRC services along with Wi-Fi.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the African American Mayors Association (AAMA) affirms the importance of unlicensed spectrum to ALL of their communities, but especially to communities of color whom have an increased reliance on wireless connectivity and low-income families who rely on free Wi-Fi for broadband access; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Federal Communications Commission should move forward to authorize unlicensed use of the 5.9 GHz band, including for Wi-Fi; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, members of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate, the Chairman and Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission, the Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the Department of Transportation, and other federal, state, and local government officials as appropriate.