**RESOLUTION 2020-011**

**IN SUPPORT BROADBAND HIGH-SPEED INTERNET SERVICE**

**WHEREAS,** there is currently a large portion of LaSalle Parish citizens with limited or no access to high-speed internet, known as “broadband”, and there is a clear “digital divide”, or gap between those who have broadband and those who do not in LaSalle Parish.

**WHEREAS,** closing the “Digital Divide” is vital to the economic prosperity and quality of life for residents of LaSalle Parish, and has become even more critical due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

**WHEREAS,** the **Town of Olla** is fully committed to helping families and children lead healthy, productive, and fulfilling lives, and recognizes the importance of access to reliable and affordable broadband in achieving these outcomes.

**WHEREAS,** Covid-19 has forced schools in LaSalle Parish and across the nation to adopt distance learning, it has become apparent that inadequate connectivity in rural communities in LaSalle Parish must be addressed to ensure that our students receive a quality education that prepares them to be productive and responsible citizens.

**WHEREAS,** the **Town of Olla** recognizes that access to rural broadband in LaSalle Parish is crucial to our ability to attract and retain businesses of all sizes and from all sectors of the global economy. High-speed internet in our rural communities is a vital component to the economic prosperity of LaSalle Parish businesses.

**WHEREAS,** residential home values are known to increase with the availability of reliable broadband service, and the future development of residential neighborhoods in LaSalle Parish will in large part depend upon access to high-speed internet.

**WHEREAS,** the **Town of Olla** recognizes that it has the opportunity to positively impact the deployment and adoption of rural broadband throughout LaSalle Parish and is committed to doing so by partnering with internet providers, the governor, state legislature, other local government entities, civic leaders, community organizations, policymakers, employers, educators, and citizens.

**WHEREAS,** the **Town of Olla** is aware that the FCC has adopted the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), which directs $20.4 billion over 10 years to fund the deployment of high-speed broadband networks in rural America through a two-phase reverse auction. The **Town of Olla** has identified numerous census blocks within LaSalle Parish that that are wholly unserved with fixed broadband at speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps, and we are committed to working with broadband providers who have bid on or are considering bidding on census tracts within LaSalle Parish.

**WHEREAS,** the **Town of Olla** is committed to working with federal and state agencies to obtain funding for the expansion of rural broadband through programs such as the Universal Service Fund (USF) programs under the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the broadband and telecommunications programs at the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

**NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED**, that the **Town of Olla** hereby fully supports obtaining reliable, affordable high-speed internet in all areas of LaSalle Parish.

**THUS DONE**, this 8th day of December 2020, in legal session in the **Town of Olla**, Parish of LaSalle and State of Louisiana.

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Rhonda Elliott Sonya Kennon

Mayor, Town of Olla Clerk, Town of Olla

CERTIFICATE

I, Sonya Kennon, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed and adopted by the Town of Olla on this 8th day of December 2020.

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Sonya Kennon, Clerk

Town of Olla