

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-120

Supporting the Productive Reuse and Safe Recycling of the County's Surplus Information Technology and the County's Ongoing Commitment to Digital Inclusion.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. In the twenty-first century, access to computers and the internet is a basic requirement for individuals to thrive and contribute. It is also the cornerstone of a vital, healthy community, with direct impacts on workforce development, economic stability and civic participation.
- b. We know from Pew Foundation research that the pace of Americans becoming digitally included is slowing. We also know that this disparity has the greatest effect on those with the fewest resources and opportunities. Nationally, half of households with incomes of less than \$30,000 do not have broadband internet access.
- c. While many lower-income people are acquiring smartphones and other devices, many efforts, like homework or job applications, cannot be completed on a smartphone, in practical terms.
- d. The 2015 "Digital Equity: Needs and Opportunities Report" called on local governments to "Enlarge computer assembly and repair offerings. Support Free Geek in broadening their outreach."
- e. Multnomah County plays a critical role in bridging the digital divide in our community through free access to technology, training, and free internet access at public libraries. Multnomah County Library hosts roughly one million computer and WiFi sessions each year.
- f. Multnomah County supports access to broadband internet and provides computers through the County's Headstart Computer Program, serving approximately 60 families annually.
- g. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality "Materials Management in Oregon: 2050 Vision and Framework for Action" calls on government to take a holistic approach to reducing materials environmental impact "starting with design and continuing through raw material extraction, manufacture, transport, consumption, use, reuse, recycling and disposal."
- h. Computers and related technologies contain precious metals and toxic materials that are environmentally destructive to extract and dispose. Reuse and recycling mitigates these environmentally destructive practices.

- i. Multnomah County is committed to buying EPEAT certified electronics, which are more energy efficient, contain fewer toxins, and are easier to reuse or recycle.
- j. Multnomah County works to ensure that electronics are reused to the maximum extent possible, and recycled responsibly at the end of the equipment's useful life.
- k. Free Geek is a locally based non-profit organization dedicated to providing free and low-cost technology and the skills to use that technology, to all County residents, with an emphasis on school aged children.
- l. Free Geek is capable of meeting or exceeding all County requirements for data destruction, security, and employs the highest environmental standards.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

- 1. To support the Department of County Assets contract with Free Geek to accept, reuse, or recycle surplus County equipment, including PCs, laptops, tablets, and peripherals.
- 2. That the Department of County Assets shall periodically report to the Board of County Commissioners on the total number of computers, laptops, and other equipment that has been donated to Free Geek, as allowed by County Administrative Procedure FIN-13.
- 3. That the Office of Sustainability shall periodically report to the Board of County Commissioners on the total number of computers, laptops, and other equipment that Free Geek has granted to schools, other community based organizations, and individuals.
- 4. That the Office of Sustainability will work with the Department of County Assets to track the social, economic, and environmental impact of reuse and recycling of County Surplus IT equipment through the partnership with Free Geek.

ADOPTED this 12th day of November, 2015.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 
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