



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF COVINGTON**

Joseph U. Meyer
Mayor

Covington City Hall
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**EXECUTIVE ORDER
CITY OF COVINGTON, KENTUCKY**

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2021-EO-44

COVINGTON CONNECT INITIATIVE (SECOND REVISION)

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, Mayor Joseph U. Meyer signed Executive Order 2020-E0-01, declaring a state of emergency in the City of Covington due to the outbreak of COVID-19 virus, a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, applicable Kentucky laws authorize a mayor to exercise emergency powers to efficiently and effectively provide for the health, safety and welfare of citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress with overwhelming, bipartisan support and signed into law by President Trump on March 27th, 2020; and

WHEREAS, through the Coronavirus Relief Fund, the CARES Act provides for payments to State, Local and Tribal governments navigating the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 outbreak, Covington residents have experienced firsthand the effects of the digital divide, in particular the ability to conduct distance learning, access online job applications, access online health care resources, and many others; and

WHEREAS, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the sudden use of distance learning and the possibility of future remote learning highlighted the need to assure digital equity for elementary, middle and high school students; and

WHEREAS, the need for distance learning and other digital access requires the implementation of high speed internet and Wi-Fi as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, through the Covington Connect initiative, the City of Covington, Cincinnati Bell, the Housing Authority of Covington, Covington Independent Schools, Blair Technology Group and

ReGadget, and Comp-U-Dopt have worked and continue to work together to expand the wireless infrastructure in low and moderate income neighborhoods through the addition of 124 public access points, the addition of fiber optic infrastructure primarily to the Eastside and Peasenburg neighborhoods, and provide free computers for up to 1,900 families of school-age children; and

WHEREAS, public Wi-Fi is currently available only in public areas of the downtown Renaissance District through Cincinnati Bell's partnership with the City and Renaissance Covington, and the Covington Connect initiative will facilitate the expansion of the Renaissance Wi-Fi network into Mainstrasse, Ritte's Corner, and the MLK Corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Housing Authority of Covington recently completed a procurement process seeking proposals for internet and Wi-Fi services for its biggest complexes (Latonia Terrace and City Heights) and Cincinnati Bell submitted the sole proposal;

WHEREAS, the Covington Connect initiative will be funded using CARES Act funds, in-kind contributions, donations, and funding from existing sources; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Meyer previously signed Executive Orders 2020-EO-23 and 2020-EO-27 that authorized the preliminary steps to move the Covington Connect initiative forward, including an estimated cost to the City and revised costs; and

WHEREAS, previous Executive Orders contemplated approximately 125 wireless Access points, a project completion date of December 31, 2020, and total cost not to exceed \$1,286,500.00, which reflected the cost of hardware and the applicable service plan; and

WHEREAS, staff have identified several additional revisions to Executive Order 2020-EO-27 to reflect the current status of the Covington Connect initiative. More specifically, the City has confirmed the final number of wireless access points is 124, the project will be complete by February 28, 2021, and the total cost of the initiative will not exceed \$1,340,100.00; and

WHEREAS, the increase in the total cost is due to the use of third-party consultant to facilitate implementation of the Covington Connect initiative. The third-party consultant, Local Gov Consultants, LLC, was originally retained for a fee totaling \$44,000.00 based on an anticipated 116 wireless access points. There is an increase in the fee for services to Local Gov Consultants, LLC based on the increase in total actual wireless Access Points from 116 to 124 and that fee is \$9,600.00.

NOW and therefore, I, Joseph U. Meyer, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Covington, Kentucky by KRS Chapter 39A, KRS 39B, and in furtherance of the declaration set forth in Executive Order 2020-EO-01, hereby order:

Executive Order 2020-EO-27 is hereby amended and to reflect the following updated information regarding the Covington Connect program:

- a. The number of wireless Access Points is 124;

- b. Local Gov Consultants, LLC has assisted with the Covington Connect initiative and will continue to facilitate implementation of the initiative pursuant to applicable agreements;
- c. The City shall utilize CARES act funding to contribute to the Covington Connect initiative, with the total amount of City funds available not to exceed \$1,340,100; and
- d. The Covington Connect initiative shall be implemented and all funding completed no later than February 28, 2021.

This Order shall remain in effect until terminated by the issuance of another Executive Order when I determine that a state of emergency no longer exists and the exercise of extraordinary measures are no longer required for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare.

THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 28, 2021 AND SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL RESCINDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER.

Signed on this the 28th day of January, 2021.

Joseph U Meyer
Joseph U. Meyer, Mayor

Attest:

Margaret M Nyhan
Margaret M. Nyhan, City Clerk

1-28-21
Date