

# CITY OF HAMILTON MOTION

Council: November 11, 2020

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR S. MERULLA.....**

**SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR.....**

**Feasibility of Connectivity Options to Help Address the Digital Divide**

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton recognizes that the Internet is an essential means of communication, forming an invaluable informational, educational and economic utility that should be accessible to all Hamiltonians irrespective of income.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the digital divide and further illustrated the Internet as an essential service for the wellbeing of residents and a means to fully participate in society, including but not limited to, access to public health information, pandemic support services, emergency income supports, online education, and connectivity to family and friends.

WHEREAS, HCE Telecom, a division of Hamilton Enterprises Holding Corporation (HEHCO), a wholly own corporation of the City of Hamilton, is actively supporting connectivity options and will continue to further research, explore and support connectivity opportunities that breakdown the digital divide making the Internet and its applications and connectivity infrastructure more accessible across the community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That city staff be directed to work with HCE Telecom and partners to explore the feasibility of connectivity options to help address the digital divide and become a recognized leader in providing public Internet access and connectivity infrastructure.