

My name is Nikhil Chand, and I am joined by T. Nadas and Adam Fleischer. We are longtime Cleveland Heights residents, Adam is a small business owner in Cleveland Heights, and we represent a broader team of citizens called Citizens for Heights Municipal Broadband.

We have crafted draft legislation to create a community driven, net neutral, revenue neutral, privacy focused Internet Service Provider servicing Cleveland Heights, and potentially University Heights. We are seeking funding in the realm of \$50-100,000 to conduct a comprehensive and independent feasibility study, otherwise known as a "Broadband Master Plan". Upon completion of the study, we intend to create a ballot initiative to let voters decide on implementation.

Our draft legislation is crafted by citizens, and inspired by a number of similar community ISPs such as Fairlawn, Ohio, Hudson, Ohio, Fort Collins, Colorado, and Chattanooga, TN. Our legislation has been presented to Cleveland Heights City Hall, CH/UH Library, and CH/UH School Board with overwhelming appeal. In fact, during a presentation to the CH/UH School Board, Vice President and University Heights resident, Jodi Sourini, adamantly requested that University Heights be involved in this initiative.

This community ISP would inject free-market competition into the monopolies and dupolies currently offered to our homes and businesses in CH/UH. Perhaps more import to our communities, however, this initiative addresses growth in areas such as economic development, home values, and equitable access to the Internet.

Our draft legislation is driven by the following tenets:

- 1. Net neutrality will be guaranteed.
- 2. Personal privacy will be guaranteed. There is to be no provision allowing the ISP to use or sell internet usage behavior for any purpose including but not limited to selling for advertisement purposes.
- 3. Revenue neutral - The utility is not to be used as a profit generating entity for the city. Funds should be used to maintain the infrastructure and to pay the salaries of those who service and support the operations of the utility. If there remains an excess of operating funds then the ISP will reduce subscription costs.
- 4. Formation of a City Municipal Broadband Oversight Committee
- 5. A preferred infrastructure of fiber optic cable.
- 6. Provisions for equitable access across the city, including allowances made for low and moderate income households.

Funding for the Cleveland Heights feasibility study is being discussed in the Cleveland Heights Municipal Services Committee this month, led by Mike Ungar. Our goal today is to encourage University Heights to partner with us, to reach out to Mike Ungar's committee, and share resources in completing this feasibility study.

Details about our initiative, as well as a copy of our draft legislation can be found on heightsbroadband.com.