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Salisbury hails decision to support competition and city choice

Salisbury, North Carolina, February 26, 2015 –Mayor Paul Woodson released a statement after the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) decided to support the petitions of two cities, Wilson, North Carolina and Chattanooga, Tennessee, asking for relief from state laws that prevented expansions of their broadband networks:

“We applaud the FCC Commissioners for voting to uphold the ability of communities to make the best choices for their future. Salisbury committed to high speed internet five years ago with the launch of Fibrant and understands the importance of providing this vital infrastructure for our entire community.”

Woodson continued, “As one of the 38 mayors who signed a letter to the FCC in support of local choice for internet infrastructure, today’s decision signals that the FCC understood and shared our concerns and supports the ability of local communities to pursue high-speed internet. Local government knows the needs of its citizens and businesses best, and that’s why it’s critical for communities to have the ability to choose the best way to provide high-quality internet.”

Interim City Manager John Sofley added, “We are excited by the removal of statutory restrictions for Fibrant. In some areas of the City there were citizens with Fibrant located in front of their homes and businesses, but legally we could not serve them. We have had to decline to provide services just because someone was located on the opposite side of the street. Now those citizens and businesses will have a choice in their providers.”

In January, Salisbury was one of 38 cities participating in Next Century Cities that sent a letter to the FCC in support of the principals of local choice and self-determination. Next Century Cities is a city-to-city initiative founded to support communities and their elected leaders, including mayors and other officials, as they seek to ensure that all citizens have access to fast, affordable, and reliable internet.

Contact: John Sofley, Interim City Manager at (704) 638-5309 or jsofl@salisburync.gov.

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