



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Khalif Rainey, District 2

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MILWAUKEE COUNTY SUPERVISOR KHALIF RAINEY WINS APPROVAL OF PARKS WI-FI RESOLUTION

Committee on Parks, Energy and Environment Approves Plan to Explore Creation of Wi-Fi Hot Spots

Milwaukee County Supervisor Khalif Rainey said today he was pleased that the County Board's Parks, Energy and Environment Committee approved his resolution to explore the possibility of creating Wi-Fi hot spots in all Milwaukee County parks, saying that Wi-Fi would enhance the quality of life throughout the County while providing Internet access to under-served areas.

"This plan could be a real benefit to under-served communities, whose residents often can only use smart phones as their on-ramp to the Internet," Rainey said. "Milwaukee County needs to move into the 21st Century when it comes to access to the Internet. Creating these hot spots in our parks will not only help under-served communities gain access to the Internet, it will improve the experience of everyone who uses the parks."

The resolution sponsored by Rainey instructs the County to "explore building partnerships with agencies that provide technology and networking services," including establishing costs, locations, equipment, providers and logistics." The resolution requires that an informational report on the issue be provided to the Parks, Energy and Environment Committee in March, 2014.

"This is really just a first step in creating County-wide Internet access in our parks," Rainey said. "Our parks are already among our most valuable assets, and creating Wi-Fi hot spots will allow greater Internet access. This is a chance to show how government can really work to bring much-needed services to under-served populations while enhancing the experience of using our parks.

"Exploring and seizing the opportunity to create Wi-Fi hot spots would greatly benefit low-income families, college students and even tourists."

The resolution now advances to the full County Board for approval.

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