



**CITY OF BOSTON  
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EXTENSION OF THE AFFORDABLE  
CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM AND ADVANCING DIGITAL EQUITY**

**WHEREAS:** Being able to access the internet is now an indispensable part of life, education, and work, and having reliable and high-speed internet access is even more critical as school, events, and businesses have transitioned to using online services, particularly after the COVID-19 pandemic; *and*

**WHEREAS:** Internet service can be expensive, and having a lack of competition in terms of internet service providers can make it difficult for families to find affordable internet service and negotiate a better rate. This issue is particularly critical now as we become more reliant on internet services; *and*

**WHEREAS:** The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a federal program that offers a \$30 subsidy to eligible low-income residents, which is enough to cover services with less data, or can constitute a sizable portion of the internet bill that represent significant cost savings to residents; *and*

**WHEREAS:** ACP will expire soon if funding is not extended, and residents will only receive about half of their usual subsidies beginning in May until funding runs out completely; *and*

**WHEREAS:** There are more than 50,000 households in Boston that are reliant on ACP to help pay for their internet bills, with 368,000 across Massachusetts and more than 23 million households across the United States who use ACP to afford internet service. Losing this program will be extremely detrimental to digital equity, and further exacerbate the digital divide for communities of color, veterans and military families, immigrant neighbors, students, our seniors and persons with disabilities; *and*

**WHEREAS:** Late last year, 32 Senators signed a letter to congressional leadership calling for the extension of funding for ACP, and a coalition of 271 civil-society groups and local organizations sent a letter recently to congress, asking them to vote on H.R. 6929, the Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act of 2024, filed by Representative Yvette Clarke; *and*

**WHEREAS:** Without ACP, many households will risk losing their internet service, or will find internet service to be a financial burden. Internet service is now an indispensable necessity of how we access services, connect with others, and function in society, and we must do all we can to extend ACP funding, so that we can take a step forward to close the digital divide and achieve digital equity; *and*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:**

That the Boston City Council supports the extension of the Affordable Connectivity Program and urges our federal representatives to work toward the continual funding of this critical program, and that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Massachusetts Congressional delegation.