

STATE OF CONNECTICUT NEWS RELEASE

Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS ADVISORY

CONNECTICUT'S 169 MUNICIPALITIES INVITED TO HALLOWEEN MEETING ON ULTRA-HIGH SPEED "GIG" INTERNET NETWORKS AND TO JOIN RFQ SEEKING PUBLICPRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Middletown Mayor Daniel T. Drew hosts Comptroller Kevin Lembo, New Haven Mayor Toni Harp, Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz, Connecticut Broadband Policy Coordinator Bill Vallee, and representatives from Connecticut's municipalities to discuss effort to bring Gig internet to the State

(October 29, 2014 – New Britain) "Gigabit-speed internet is the future, and no community wants to get left behind."

That is how Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz explains the growing interest in a municipal proposal issued by Stamford, West Hartford, and New Haven seeking partners for public-private partnerships to facilitate the development of gigabit-speed "Gig" internet networks in their cities. The proposal, styled as a Request for Qualification or "RFQ," invites any other interested municipality to join the effort. To date, several additional municipalities have joined, and many others are in the process.

The invitation went out to all 169 municipalities in the state to learn about the RFQ and to join this call to action at Middletown City Hall in City Council Chambers. Registration and coffee begins at 10:00 a.m. and the program begins promptly at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, October 31, 2014.

"Businesses need faster, cheaper internet services. So do health care providers, schools, hospitals, government agencies, high-tech industries, entrepreneurs, smart-grid applications, and of course, 'millennials' and other citizens of our state who expect access to the fastest, cheapest internet service this country can provide. The municipalities involved in this effort are stepping forward to make that happen," Katz said.

TIME: REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

STARTS AT 10:00 AM

PROGRAM BEGINS AT 10:30 AM

DAY: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2014

WHERE: MIDDLETOWN CITY HALL

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

245 deKOVEN DRIVE MIDDLETOWN, CT

PUBLIC PARKING:

- Melilli Plaza Municipal Parking Lot, 53 Washington, St.
- Riverview Arcade Lower Level Parking Garage, Dingwall Dr.

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The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) is the State of Connecticut's advocate for all utility ratepayers. OCC seeks to ensure just and reasonable rates and reliable utility service for customers of Connecticut's electric, gas, telephone, and water utilities and reasonable protection for cable television customers. For more information, visit www.ct.gov/occ.