



**Series of free interactive web conferences
expressly designed for Connecticut municipal officials**

March 17, 2017

Please watch for email notices and save the date for the next OCC Free Interactive Webinar Conference, which will be presented on March 30, 2016 at 10am.

**To review the First OCC Webinar on technology, January 27, 2017, use this
Playback/Download link:**

<https://bbwebinars.webex.com/bbwebinars/lsr.php?RCID=0490d6b4a2134ba9a55d81064cdb5090>

On January 27, 2017, the OCC presented the first in a series of free interactive web conferences expressly designed for Connecticut municipal officials. The first free interactive webinar topic was entitled "***Understanding Broadband Technologies***" which was focused on providing municipal leaders with a greater understanding of the relevant technologies that could serve to effectively address their communities' broadband internet access needs.

The webinar was cohosted by Elin Katz, Connecticut Consumer Counsel and the Hon. Toni Harp, Mayor of the City of New Haven.

Andrew Afflerbach, CEO & Director of Engineering of CTC Technology & Energy, presented the webinar topic and answered questions.

"Understanding Broadband Technologies" discussed various broadband delivery mechanisms, including wireline and wireless technologies.

- Starting with an introduction to the common types of broadband connections (e.g., DSL, cable modem, fiber optics, Wi-Fi, cellular), we will compare and contrast the technologies' capabilities, costs, performance, and potential future enhancements.
- The webinar focused on the role of fiber networks (considered a "future-proof" medium) and emerging 5G wireless services.

The agenda included:

- Introductions and summary of New Haven broadband activities by Mayor Harp;
- A high-level overview of broadband technologies; and

- An interactive format that provides municipal officials an opportunity to ask questions of national experts, share concerns, and discuss best practices.

Mayor Harp's Comments

Mayor Harp addressed the questions of why a city like New Haven has to engage in the process of bringing affordable high speed internet access to all the premises in the city. She explained having access to high speed internet is essential to jobs, education and business opportunities and in New Haven and that residents in low-income areas in particular will benefit greatly from having high speed internet. Bringing affordable high speed internet access to all the premises in the city will help level the playing field for all citizens, residents, business small and large, and all community anchor institutions across the city, including schools, libraries, hospitals, and public safety facilities. The Mayor believes that digital Inclusion is essential to the increasing the mobility of the low income residents in the City. On the business side, high speed internet access will attract the high tech businesses that depend on high speed internet, including rapidly evolving bio tech and investment companies.

The Mayor announced that New Haven intends to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) presently in order to solicit proposals from private companies in order to create a fiber network to every premises in the City with private funds, while utilizing streamlined permitting and engineering help from the City. The City plans to partner with various local unions to provide jobs and opportunities for the residents, and has engaged with the City's Aldermanic representatives in order to collaborate with our legislative leadership on developing affordable broadband internet access to all premises.

Mayor Harp stated that the City's partnership with the state Consumer Counsel over the last several years has been instrumental in helping the City develop a digital inclusion plan to utility the over 2,000 miles of fiber optics already in use throughout the City. The City has also partnered with Yale University to increase use of advanced software and hardware to improve e-government functions. New Haven has teamed up with Microsoft to develop software to provide education, job training, and business development. The City has successfully engaged in projects to provide WIFI internet access for all citizens in our public buildings (libraries and city buildings), and across the historic downtown green, including during the City's successful concerts and other large public gatherings.

The City is creating an Innovation Commons at the New Haven Main Public Library over the next 2 years and is in the running for a Connecticut Innovations, Inc. financial grant, teaming with state and local agencies, along with the City's business community to develop a plan to make New Haven an Innovation Place.

Perhaps most exciting, New Haven is currently developing a project with the New Haven Housing Authority to provide internet access to a new housing development with the focus on improving educational and employment access, and featuring plans for fiber and wireless affordable broadband internet access.



Please visit

[OCC's website.](#)