



City of Lowell - Law Department

375 Merrimack Street, 3rd Floor • Lowell MA 01852-5909
Tel: 978.674.4050 • Fax: 978.453.1510 • www.lowellma.gov

Christine P. O'Connor
City Solicitor

Kerry Regan Jenness
1st Assistant City Solicitor

Gary D. Gordon
John Richard Hucksam, Jr.
Adam LaGrassa
Stacie M. Moeser
Elliott J. Veloso
Assistant City Solicitors

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

FROM: Christine P. O'Connor, City Solicitor
Christine Clancy, Commissioner of Public Works

DATE: September 8, 2020

SUBJECT: MOTION OF 8/11/20 BY COUNCILORS NUON AND SAMARAS
REQUEST CITY MANAGER REPORT ON RESULT OF PREVIOUS
NEGOTIATIONS WITH SIFI NETWORKS AND EXPLORE OPTIONS TO
PROVIDE WIFI THROUGHOUT THE CITY SO ALL STUDENTS CAN
ASCESS ONLINE LEARING AS NECESSARY

We write in response to a motion request relative to negotiations with SiFi, and further to explore options to provide Wi-Fi throughout the city for online learning for students.

Negotiations with SiFi remain ongoing, although such efforts have paused during this pandemic. To this date, SiFi has not advanced any installations in the New England area. It has been reported to the City of Lowell, that soon SiFi will be doing a pilot program in Salem, Massachusetts.

As part of our own due diligence, the City has been invited to observe the installation and effects of Salem's pilot program. If the pilot program is successful, micro-trenching would then need to be installed in all of Salem's streets.

Whether in Salem or in Lowell, a contract with SiFi would be part of a multi-year effort, and even a community with a recently signed contract would still be years from implementation. Accordingly, while the administration continues to explore a fiber-optic broadband network through SiFi, this product would not, at this time, provide a solution for city-wide Wi-Fi.