

October 1, 2020

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 6

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.

CHAIR BASKIN PRESENT AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.

1. RESOLVED, the following items are hereby received and filed:
 - a. COMM. 13D-12 (2020)
DEPT. OF LAW: "Transmittal of New Claims Against EC"
(Chair's Ruling)
 - b. COMM. 16D-15 (2020)
DEPT. OF LAW: "Transmittal of Claims Against EC"
(Chair's Ruling)
 - c. COMM. 16D-17 (2020)
DEPT. OF LAW: "Transmittal of Claim Against EC"
(Chair's Ruling)
 - d. COMM. 16M-1 (2020)
RIVERVIEW INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY CAMPUS: "Letter to Chair of Government Affairs Committee Regarding Discussion Held on Thursday, 07/16/2020"
(Chair's Ruling)
2. INTRO. 17-9 (2020)
RATH, LORIGO, TODARO & MILLS
WHEREAS, in 2016 Governor Cuomo stated it was his goal to achieve full coverage for access to broadband internet for all New York residents by the end of 2018; and

WHEREAS, in the past, this honorable body has supported measures by New York State to provide expanded access to broadband services; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, many of the rural areas in New York State, including parts of Erie County, still do not have full access to broadband internet speeds; and

WHEREAS, with the spread of COVID-19 and the resulting increase in people working or learning from home, access to high-speed internet has never been more important to providing a level playing field for our rural communities; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Broadband Connectivity Act is intended to require the Public Service Commission conduct a study to determine the level of access to high-speed internet across the entire state; and

WHEREAS, the Public Service Commission's study would provide insights into how far New York has progressed in its efforts to achieve universal high-speed internet coverage and how much more work is still have left to do; and

WHEREAS, the bipartisan bill was overwhelmingly approved in both the state Senate and state Assembly, and has been awaiting executive action for over two months. Considering how important internet access is, the bill must be signed into law immediately.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body hereby urges Governor Cuomo to act to sign the Comprehensive Broadband Connectivity Act immediately so that we are able to determine how much progress has been made to provide broadband internet access to all New York residents; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Western New York Delegation to the New York State Senate and Assembly, Governor Andrew Cuomo's office, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.
(6-0)

KEVIN R. HARDWICK
CHAIR