Policy on Prohibition of Viewing Pornography on Government Networks and Devices
Prepared by: Chris Jones, Technology & Innovation Director
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I. Introduction

The purpose of this proposal is to seek City Council approval for the implementation of the Policy on Prohibition of Viewing Pornography on Government Networks and Devices. This policy aligns with North Carolina General Statute § 143-805, which mandates public agencies to establish guidelines prohibiting the viewing of pornography on government-managed networks and devices.

II. Background

North Carolina General Statute § 143-805 requires public agencies to adopt policies prohibiting the use of their networks and devices to access pornography by January 1, 2025. Noncompliance with this statute could result in legal and reputational risks for the City of Lincolnton. The proposed policy establishes clear guidelines to ensure the City adheres to state requirements while maintaining professionalism and safeguarding public resources.

III. Policy Highlights

1. Scope:
   - Applies to all employees, elected officials, and appointees associated with the City of Lincolnton.

2. Prohibitions:
   - Viewing pornography is prohibited on all city networks and devices.

3. Exceptions:
   - Limited and controlled exceptions exist for law enforcement, cybersecurity, and legal or research purposes in accordance with statutory requirements.

4. Monitoring and Reporting:

- The City is not required to actively monitor usage but must report any violations to the State Chief Information Officer.

5. Disciplinary Actions:
- Violations may result in disciplinary actions, up to and including termination.

6. Annual Review:
- The policy will be reviewed and updated annually to ensure ongoing compliance.

IV. Benefits of Adoption

- Compliance: Ensures the City meets the January 1, 2025, statutory deadline.
- Professionalism: Maintains ethical standards and safeguards the integrity of public resources.
- Risk Mitigation: Reduces legal liabilities and enhances network security.

V. Recommendations

We recommend that the City Council:
1. Approve the proposed Policy on Prohibition of Viewing Pornography on Government Networks and Devices.
2. Direct the City Manager and Technology & Innovation Department to implement the policy immediately.
3. Instruct staff to communicate the policy to all relevant parties and provide training as needed.

VI. Conclusion

Adopting this policy demonstrates the City of Lincolnton's commitment to compliance, professionalism, and the responsible management of its resources. Approval of this proposal will ensure that the City meets statutory requirements while fostering a respectful and productive working environment.