RESOLUTION NO. 20-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH BUNCOMBE COUNTY, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE AND THE ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION REGARDING THE PROVISION OF NECESSARY AND ESSENTIAL INTERNET SERVICES TO CERTAIN COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, pursuant to N. C. Gen. Stat. 160A-461, the City of Asheville can enter into interlocal agreements to execute any undertaking; and

WHEREAS, in direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic, residents of North Carolina must rely substantially on internet services to access certain essential services, including, but not limited to, health care; and

WHEREAS, in good faith based upon all available data and scientific information, it is believed that the COVID-19 pandemic will continue for an indefinite period of time to negatively impact the ability of (a) the public schools in the County of Buncombe and the Asheville City Schools District to provide fully in-person instruction; (b) public school students to access on-line instruction; and (c) residents of the County and City to access vital health and safety services made available through the internet, including, but not limited to, telehealth and emergency services information; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville, Buncombe County, the Housing Authority of the City of Asheville, and Asheville City Schools Board of Education desire to enter into an interlocal agreement to provide necessary, basic and essential services to their respective constituents to mitigate and combat the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic through the provision of no-charge wireless internet services for residents of the following communities: (a) Southside Communities along Livingston Street; (b) Hillcrest Apartments; (c) Pisgah View Apartments; (d) Klondyke Homes; and (e) Deaverview Apartments; and

WHEREAS, the Housing Authority of the City of Asheville submitted a Request for Proposals for said services, including installation and annual Internet Service Provider fees for a 4 year term; and

WHEREAS, Skyrunner Inc., a/k/a Skyrunner Internet, submitted a proposal that the Housing Authority of the City of Asheville intends to accept, contingent upon funding; and

WHEREAS, The City of Asheville wishes to provide a portion of the funding for this endeavor;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The City Manager be, and she is hereby, authorized to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the County of Buncombe, the Housing Authority of the City of Asheville, and the Asheville City Schools Board of Education regarding the provision of necessary and essential internet services to certain communities located in Buncombe County. Pursuant to this agreement, the City of Asheville shall provide the amount of $50,000 toward funding this initiative.

Read, approved and adopted this 10th day of November, 2020.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney