

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. 10525

A RESOLUTION establishing a policy framework for City collaboration on technological innovation solutions to improve government services and support digital equity; authorizing use of City resources for innovation demonstrations and digital inclusion-related projects.

WHEREAS, the City of Bellevue is home to many of the leading technology companies in the world; and

WHEREAS, the Bellevue City Council Vision includes “Innovation is an integral part of our community. We embrace and support innovation in all aspects of our community – systems, institutions, businesses, schools and government”; and

WHEREAS, based on feedback from community engagement work through the City’s Innovation Forum, the Bellevue community and businesses have identified a need for policies and actions that support innovation in city services, ensure all individuals in the community have access to and use of affordable information and communication technologies to enable all people to participate in our society and economy, and address barriers to fully utilizing the opportunities that a broadband and an innovative economy offers; and

WHEREAS, the City is interested in making it easier to test/grow innovative ideas within the City, and support innovation partnerships with companies, entrepreneurs, non-profits, and educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, the City is also interested in facilitating donations by private entities and volunteers of free and low cost connectivity, and technology support to meet the needs of Bellevue residents who don’t have other readily available access to technology or digital resources; and

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON, DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Public purpose. The prioritization of technological innovation in City services, growth and sustainment of innovative partnerships, support of a start-up ecosystem, as well as the support of community technological education opportunities and expansion of digital access, are important functions that serve a public purpose. This technology innovation policy framework is hereby established to support this public purpose.

Section 2. Public-Private Partnerships on Innovative Solutions. The City recognizes that businesses, nonprofit organizations, and other governmental entities may be interested in collaborating with the City to test and refine their innovative solutions. The City may enter into agreements to cooperate, collaborate, and partner with businesses, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions and other governmental entities on the development of innovative solutions to enhance or improve delivery of City services, support digital inclusion opportunities, assess emerging innovations and technologies, and advance the city's economic goals by cultivating and supporting the start-up ecosystem.

Section 3. City Feedback to Inform Innovative Solutions. In furtherance of collaboration, the City may provide non-confidential data, business process documentation (such as documented workflows and policies,) and managed access to City staff for interviews, process clarification, and feedback through agreements that provide the City adequate consideration to evaluate the Innovative Solutions. Such feedback may inform both the adaptation of existing solutions or development of new products.

Section 4. Procurement Policy Support for Innovative Solutions. Rather than undertaking premature procurement processes of emerging innovative products and services, it is recognized that when the City collaborates with businesses, nonprofit organizations, and other governmental entities by providing staff feedback and investing time and other resources, the City and the public can benefit from products and services that represent new or evolving innovative solutions or that better align with the City's specific goals, priorities, and operational requirements. Where applicable and consistent with laws, rules, orders, and agreements to support such collaboration and innovative partnerships, the Facilities and Asset Management Director may review and adopt rules and guidelines for procurement of products and services that may allow the city to purchase products and services developed out of the innovation partnerships with the City.

Section 5. Other Support; Pilot Projects. The City may make available temporary use of City-owned land, facilities, equipment, and right of ways for collaborations and pilot projects demonstrating innovative solutions to improve government services. Within the limits of authorized budget, the City may also provide financial assistance and/or absorb some costs for implementation of such pilot projects.

Section 6. Digital Inclusion Public Interest. The City recognizes that it is in the interest of the City to facilitate access to information and communications technologies for the City's residents, particularly the "underserved population" as defined in RCW 43.330.530, and as it may be amended. The City further recognizes that facilitating such access will allow broader participation in and enjoyment of the City's economy, as well as improve civic engagement.

Section 7. Donations and Distributions of Surplus Devices. The City may pursue opportunities to facilitate donations and distributions of surplus computers, laptops or other technology devices that have some remaining useful life for reuse by Bellevue residents.

Section 8. Financial Assistance for Free or Low-Cost Connectivity Projects. Within the limits of authorized budgets, the City Manager is authorized to negotiate and execute agreements with broadband telecommunications and internet service providers and other technology companies to provide financial or other valuable incentives for such companies to provide free or low-cost wifi or digital connectivity to financially underserved households in Bellevue.

Section 9. Other Support for Digital Inclusion. The City may make available temporary use of City-owned land, facilities, equipment, right of ways and non-confidential data for programs operated by private or public entities that offer technical support, digital literacy classes, training and education for technology-based jobs.

Section 10. Compliance with laws and regulations. Nothing in this Resolution shall be interpreted as authorizing the City to regulate the services or business operations of a telecommunications provider unless otherwise authorized by state law nor as authorization for acts in conflict with federal or state laws related to telecommunications facility design, construction or operation. Support for Pilot Projects and/or Digital Inclusion involving telecommunications facilities shall ensure compliance with City regulation of placement of telecommunication facilities within the City.

Section 11. Emerging technologies. It is recognized that it is in the City's interest to assess and remain open to the productivity enhancing potential of emerging technologies such as generative artificial intelligence while also appropriately accounting for the effect of automation on labor relations.

Section 12. Innovative Design Partnership Policy. To provide policy support to increase innovative design partnerships between the City and businesses, nonprofits and educational institutions, the City of Bellevue Innovative Design Partnership Policy at Attachment A is incorporated herein by reference and is hereby approved.

Section 13. City Priorities. The City will prioritize innovative partnerships, pilots, and projects that support identified council and city priorities.

Passed by the City Council this _____ day of _____, 2025, and signed in authentication of its passage this _____ day of _____, 2025.

(SEAL)

Lynne Robinson, Mayor

Attest:

Charmaine Arredondo, City Clerk