

Where Is Bmore FiOS?

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City Council members announce public hearing on Verizon's decision to leave Baltimore off its FiOS map

Baltimore, MD – On Wednesday, April 21 at 12:00 pm in front of City Hall, a group of City Council members announced the date and time for a City Council hearing to be held on a City Council resolution calling on Verizon to treat Baltimore equally and wire the City for FiOS: **Wednesday, April 28 at 5pm at City Hall.**

The announcement of the City Council hearing comes more than a year after the resolution was first introduced, following numerous meetings between City Council members and Verizon executives to try to find common ground. Having failed to resolve the issue, the City Council members are going ahead with a public hearing on the resolution. The lead sponsor is Councilmember Bill Cole, and the original cosponsors were Councilmembers Young, Henry, Middleton, Kraft, Clarke, Branch, Reisinger, Conaway, Welch, Spector, Holton, and Curran.

In recent months a new coalition of civil rights organizations, consumer advocates, churches, neighborhoods, businesses, and labor unions has come together as the "Where Is Bmore FiOS?" campaign to demand that Verizon treat Baltimore City the same as every other major jurisdiction in Maryland and deploy its next-generation fiber-optic data communication technology here. Verizon has already deployed this new network in Montgomery, Prince George's, Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Howard, Harford, and Charles counties as well as cities along the mid-Atlantic seaboard such as Richmond, Washington, Philadelphia, Trenton, and New York. Verizon's failure to do so in Baltimore threatens to create a digital divide affecting Baltimore's communities and businesses.

Matthew Weinstein, coordinator of the "Where Is Bmore FiOS?" campaign and Baltimore Region Director for Progressive Maryland, commented, "We applaud the leadership of Councilman Cole and the rest of the City Council in calling out Verizon for their disgraceful behavior. Why does Verizon want to continue in the tradition of redlining and disparate treatment of our City by banks and mortgage companies, auto insurance, supermarkets, and cable television? Next week's hearing will give City residents to express how they feel about this treatment."

For more details, visit:

www.WhereIsBmoreFiOS.org



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