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**THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **City of Springfield to Pursue Google Fiber Optic Network**

SPRINGFIELD- The City of Springfield is attempting to form a partnership with Google Inc. to introduce new ultra-high speed internet connections for city residents and businesses.

On February 10, 2010 Google Inc. announced that they plan to test their idea to launch an ultra high speed fiber optic network in one (or more) trial locations across the country. The network will deliver internet speeds more than 100 times what most Americans have access to today; over 1-gigabit per second. The technology is the first of its kind in America.

Google is accepting proposals from cities where they hope to offer this new internet service at a competitive price to at least 50,000 and potentially up to 500,000 people. The best locations will be those with support from the community and local government.

Ward 2 City Councilor Michael A. Fenton has led the effort to bring the network to Springfield. On Monday, March 1, 2010 the Springfield City Council passed a resolution which expressed support for the project. The resolution was sponsored by Fenton. "This project would be a tremendous economic development engine for our area" said Fenton.

"Springfield is an ideal community for Google's network because of our location, hospitals, colleges, and high-tech operations including the new data center on Elliot Street" said Fenton. "Bringing this network to the city would go a long way to further Springfield's vision of being a data and technology leader in the Northeast" Fenton added.

"The project has the enthusiastic support Mayor Domenic Sarno and the City Council, however, support from city residents and organizations is needed in order to increase Springfield's chances of being named as the test location for the network" said Fenton.

City residents and areas organizations are encouraged to support the city's efforts by nominating Springfield as a test location online at: <http://www.google.com/appserve/fiberrfi/public/options>

The deadline for submitting information to Google is March 26<sup>th</sup>.