

Date: Wednesday, June 1, 2011

TO: UC 2B Policy Board

From: Zernial Bogan

Re: Voting Rights for Community Members of UC2B Policy Committee

This proposal is for the approval of granting voting powers to the non-voting community members on the UC2B Policy Committee.

There are several reasons for this proposal:

1. The UC 2B Consortium was given a \$22.5 million grant from the ARRA stimulus fund in order to enhance the digital communications and fiber optics for the Community, primarily targeting the unserved and underserved, of Urbana and Champaign. The underserved deserve to have representatives with voting powers.
2. The Community participation, now and in the future, is vitally important for the continuance of UC 2B. This defines and demands that the community have an active participatory role and voice in the decision-making of UC 2B Policy Board.
3. According to the BTOP manual for construction and operation, there is supposed to be an active community training process in progress, which would directly benefit the community for economic stimulus and

empowerment through employment, funded by the ARRA grant funds.

4. The Representative Voice of the Community, the layperson, cannot truly represent, the voice of the community, unless that voice has a vote. The shadow of mistrust and tension, held by the community, toward mainstream power structure, when funds of this magnitude are at stake, could be greatly relaxed when the community feels it has a part in the decision-making of the UC2B Policy Committee

5. The UC 2B Consortium should not feel threatened or intimidated by one vote from the everyday community member. Instead, it should welcome that vote as a means of helping to mend community relations and bridge the digital divide within our community.

When the government agencies, which formed the consortium of UC 2B goes behind the closed doors and make their decisions, the community needs to feel and wants to feel that it had some part in the overall process of that decision-making. The decisions made at the UC 2B policy board should always include the voice of the community, not just by consultation, but with the voice of a vote. Building strong community relations is and should always be one of the major cornerstones in the operation and existence of UC 2B.