



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **City of Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency launches City-wide Broadband Survey as part of City's Digital Equity Efforts**

*Survey to assess internet access for area residents & businesses*

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Buffalo, N.Y. – Mayor Byron W. Brown today announced the launch of a City-wide Broadband Access and Adoption Survey, in efforts to assist resident and business access to affordable connectivity services. The survey is part of a larger study on broadband and internet infrastructure, access, and adoption in the City. The survey can be accessed at [www.buffalobroadband.com](http://www.buffalobroadband.com). The study is part of the City of Buffalo's Urban Renewal Agency's STAND UP Buffalo Initiative, a series of direct assistance grants and programs that respond to the unique challenges brought on by the global Coronavirus Pandemic.

Residents and businesses are asked to provide answers to questions surrounding how to improve internet service quality, the amount the participant can afford to pay for internet if they currently do not have it, and how the internet is utilized daily; including but not limited to telehealth appointments, remote working, and service delivery. The survey also analyzes the speed of your internet and options to improve a slow connection.

"Through the STAND UP Buffalo Initiative, my administration has worked diligently in addressing both short and long-term impacts of the global Covid-19 Pandemic", said Mayor Brown. "This includes resolving any inequities in broadband access for our residents and small businesses, as internet is such an integral part of our everyday lives."

Last month, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed into legislation a first-in-the-nation program to provide affordable internet services to low-income residents and families across the state as part of New York State's 2021 Connectivity Agenda. Additionally, the Governor announced in March a commitment for internet access for students via the ConnectED NY Initiative – offering 50,000 students in economically-disadvantaged school districts free internet through June 2022.

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The Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) has been preparing an Emergency Broadband Benefit Program that will provide subsidies for broadband services and computer and tablet assistance. Also, beginning May 12<sup>th</sup>, City residents are encouraged to see if they are eligible and sign up for the FCC’s Emergency Broadband Benefit Program.

“The City of Buffalo has taken a strong stance on equity in Broadband and our priorities in delivering affordable internet to our residents and small businesses are utilizing the resources now available through Governor Cuomo’s agenda at the State level and President Biden’s agenda at the Federal level”, said Mayor Brown.

The Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency along with the Mayor’s Office of Strategic Planning Division of Development is partnering with ECC Technologies in this effort.

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#### **About the City of Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency**

The Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency (BURA) is a public benefit corporation that was formed by an act of the New York State Legislature in 1966. We strive to promote the expeditious undertaking, financing and completion of community development programs and create quality and vibrant urban living in Buffalo through neighborhood driven development projects.

