



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
**HERB WESSON**  
LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 10



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **3,000 Section 8 Homes Eligible to Receive a Free Laptop & Low-Cost Internet**

**Los Angeles** - The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA), Los Angeles City Council President Herb Wesson, non-profit human-I-T and Frontier Communications, today launched a new effort to connect over 3,000 eligible Section 8 households to low-cost internet programs. These households may also be eligible to receive a free Chromebook laptop. Families at Moonlight Villas in Pacoima joined HACLA, Council President Wesson, and community partners to make the announcement.

“Today we build upon the success of the city’s OurCycle LA program, which has donated thousands of computers and free Wi-Fi to deserving Angelenos,” said Council President Wesson. The OurCycle LA program, created by Wesson, refurbishes city-owned computers and distributes them to low-income individuals citywide. Qualified participants are required to attend a digital literacy training program. The program maximizes the use of existing computers, provides job training and employment for individuals with high barriers to employment and minimizes the city’s electronic waste footprint. “We must continue doing all we can to bridge the digital divide in our region,” Wesson added.

This effort is part of the ConnectHome initiative to expand high speed broadband among households residing in federally subsidized housing units. ConnectHome brings Internet Service Providers, non-profits and the private sector together to tackle the issue of the digital divide. In this 27 unit building where 26 households are receiving federal rental aid, nearly half of the households do not have Internet connection because it is too costly. For those who have the connection, they are paying on average \$40 a month. That cost is as much as the rent that some of these households pay.

“Frontier Communications is delighted to join as a community partner to bring affordable broadband programs to increase access to Internet service and help Californians narrow the digital divide,” said Joe Gamble, senior vice president for Frontier Communications. “This program aligns with Frontier’s mission to serve California communities and affirms our commitment to expand high-speed connectivity where currently unavailable.”

“HACLA, human-I-T, OurCycle LA program led by Council President Wesson and Sprint joined forces in 2016 and connected over 500 K-12 households living in public housing communities across the city,” said HACLA President and CEO Douglas Guthrie. “To date, we have provided access to over 2,600 HACLA households. Many of the residents have received digital literacy trainings as well as computers. HACLA is pleased to expand this effort thanks to Frontier Communications and the community partners.”

In addition, HACLA joined AT&T, Mayor Eric Garcetti and the U.S. HUD in January to announce the launch of Access from AT&T. The program provides eligible low-income residents access to internet speed tiers of 10 Mbps and 5 Mbps for \$10 a month, and internet speed tiers at 3 Mbps, 1.5 Mbps or 768 Kbps for \$5 a month. AT&T also waives installation and internet equipment fees for participating households.

“human I-T donated over \$200,000 (1,500 computers) in technology and helped connect approximately 1,000 households to the internet in 2016,” said CFO Aaron Wilkins. “We look forward to continuing our work through this partnership and increasing our impact in the community by serving over thousands of eligible participants.

#### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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## **ABOUT HACLA**

The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) was established in 1938 by City of Los Angeles Resolution No. 1241. HACLA has grown to become one of the nation's largest and leading public housing authorities, providing the largest supply of quality affordable housing to residents of the City of Los Angeles.

HACLA's annual budget is more than \$ 1 billion. HACLA provides affordable housing to over 75,000 households. It offers a range of programs specifically for low income, homeless, disabled, children and seniors such as: Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS), Homeless Program, Homeownership Program, Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA), Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, Project-Based Rental Assistance, Mainstream - Housing Opportunities for Person with Disabilities, Moderate rehabilitation, Shelter Plus Care Program, Moderate Rehab for Single Room Occupancy.

## **ABOUT ConnectHome**

ConnectHome creates a platform for community leaders, local governments, nonprofit organizations, and private industry to join together and produce locally-tailored solutions for narrowing the digital divide. Through these stakeholders' specific commitments to provide free or low-cost broadband access, devices, and digital literacy training, ConnectHome extends affordable access to low-income families, ensuring that high-speed Internet follows our children from their classrooms back to their homes. The pilot program launched in 2015 in 27 cities and one tribal nation in collaboration with public housing agencies, local government, Internet service providers, and nonprofit organizations.

## **ABOUT Herb J. Wesson**

Herb J. Wesson, Jr. has served as the President of the Los Angeles City Council since November 2011 and has represented Council District 10 since 2005. Wesson is the first African American to hold the position of Council President in the city's history and has been re-elected three times to lead the city's legislative body. According to a report by the L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce, under Wesson's leadership Council District 10 has the second highest private employment growth rate in the city, is setting the trend for mixed-use developments citywide and boasts an increase in local business activity. Council President Wesson has been happily married for more than 35 years and is the proud father of four sons and a grandfather to three grandchildren.

## **ABOUT OurCycle LA**

Under the leadership of Council President Wesson and the City Council, the City of Los Angeles is founded the OurCycleLA project, a digital inclusion program designed to take advantage of the thousands of salvage computers from the city. The primary goals of the program are to maximize the use of the computers while reducing the electronic waste footprint, provide job training to youths and employment opportunities for individuals with high barriers to employment, and help bridge the digital divide in Los Angeles. Refurbished computers are being distributed to qualified participants in various underserved communities throughout the city.

## **ABOUT human I-T**

human-I-T is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that fixes donated technology and redistributes to low-income individuals and nonprofits. With the generosity of businesses and individuals, human-I-T equips our recipients with resources to excel in the digital age: free technology and digital literacy training, as well as low-cost internet solutions. human-I-T practices reusing electronics rather than recycling, breathing new life into your old devices and converting e-waste into opportunities for others.

For more information about how you can help ensure everyone has a #right2tech, visit [human-i-t.org](http://human-i-t.org)

## **ABOUT Frontier Communications**

Frontier Communications Corporation (NASDAQ: FTR) is a leader in providing communications services to urban, suburban, and rural communities in 29 states. Frontier offers a variety of services to residential customers over its fiber-optic and copper networks, including video, high-speed internet, advanced voice, and Frontier Secure® digital protection solutions. Business Edge™ offers communications solutions to small, medium, and enterprise businesses. More information about Frontier is available at [www.frontier.com](http://www.frontier.com).

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