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## **CITY OF ELIZABETH GOES WI-FI**

*CITY BECOMES THE FIRST MUNICIPALITY IN NJ TO OFFER FREE WIFI NETWORK*

**ELIZABETH, NJ JAN. 22, 2007**— Today Mayor Chris Bollwage launched New Jersey's first Wi-Fi Wireless Internet Program. At the Kick-Off event participants were able to connect to the Internet from their Wi-Fi enabled devices.

“We are excited to be leading the way in municipal wireless technology here in New Jersey,” said Mayor Bollwage. “In the future we hope to bring free wireless Internet access to all our residents, students, visitors and local merchants. ”

The Pilot Program coverage area ranges from the Union County Courthouse to the Midtown Train Station and allows users to log on to the Internet for free. In order to assist residents in locating a Hot Spot, the City has provided Local Merchants with window cards. These window cards will indicate that the merchant has access to the free Wi-Fi Wireless Internet Program.

If successful, future plans for the program will include expanding coverage throughout the City and will allow access to emergency personal. Through the Wi-Fi Technology, first responders will have the advantage of attending to an emergency almost instantly through the use of wireless equipment. “This is a wonderful idea! Its great to know that we are the first City in New Jersey that offers Wi-Fi Internet Access”, said Groundwork Elizabeth Executive Director Jonathan Phillips. “Everyone can benefit from the use of having the Internet at their disposal.”

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With the authorization of the Union County Freeholders, the City was able to post a Wi-Fi antenna on the roof of the County Courthouse tower on Broad Street. "We are pleased to provide technological assistance to Elizabeth, one of the major centers for commerce in Union County and the State of New Jersey," stated Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski. "The Wi-Fi project helps to market Elizabeth and Union County as a premier place for business."

Officials hope with the success of this program new businesses and high tech industries will be more interested in investing in the City. "Pilot programs like this allow communities to experience what municipal wireless is all about," said Angela Singhal Whiteford, Director, municipal wireless solutions, Nortel. "Its about helping to make services more readily available and government more efficient and responsive. Its about creating new avenues for commerce and new sources of revenue. Its about leveling the playing field in the competition for new business and new opportunities."

Sponsors of the program include Mayor Chris Bollwage, Union County, Kean University Nortel and WavHost. For more information please contact the Public Information Office at 908-820-4124.

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