RACE & EQUITY POCKET QUESTIONS

Title & Purpose of this Initiative: T-Mobile grant to provide technology refresh of the Town's Free Public Wi-Fi. Refresh infrastructure of free public Wi-Fi service allowing for greater bandwidth, faster speeds and larger number of users to connect.

Department: Information Technology

What are the Racial and Equity impacts? Historically disenfranchised communities, especially in terms of technology and digital services are not being addressed.

Who is or will experience community burden? Will not be directly addressing the historically disenfranchised communities and their typically lower level of usage of these types of modern digital services.

Who is or will experience community benefit? Present users of the Town's public Wi-Fi system.

What are the root causes of inequity? Historic socioeconomic inequalities between various communities.

What might be the unintended consequences of this action or strategy? Currently, the Town's free public Wi-Fi service is provided in public downtown spaces and Town buildings. This may increase inequities between those who can access the Town's free public Wi-Fi system and those who cannot access the Town's Wi-Fi system due to distance from services, not possessing a mobile wireless device or other difficulties.

How is your department planning to mitigate any burdens, inequities, and unintended consequences? The Town is continually rethinking how best to serve the Town's various communities and address inequities. Historically, the Town has worked on various technology projects with the local public school system – CHCCS – addressing children at risk in our community, helping to hold technology events showcasing student projects and knowledge and with computer training courses for non-English speakers. Have assisted with various technology projects with the RENA Community Center. Provide connectivity for various UNC offices located in Carrboro back to the UNC campus (over Town of Carrboro operated fiber optic network) that support programs for autism and substance abuse. The town is always exploring new ways to partner and leverage existing technology.