



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Ted Wheeler, Mayor
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Dear Business Leader,

This is a call to action to join the City's efforts to create a digitally connected community by participating in local opportunities to donate your company's old computers and related technology.

The City, like any organization, must keep pace with technology evolution through regular lifecycle replacement of city computers. Through a partnership with Free Geek, a local non-profit focused on refurbishing technology to give back to our community at no or low cost, the City is using its electronics donation to further its service impact and help address an important community need.

The City's Digital Equity Action Plan (DEAP) revealed that a critical element to helping our residents get digitally connected is to provide access to low or no-cost computing devices and the training to use them effectively. We are working collaboratively under the DEAP with local partners (community-based organizations and non-profits on the front lines of digital inclusion efforts, and local governments, businesses, schools, libraries, etc.) to find ways to focus our resources to help overcome these barriers.

Free Geek's *Corporate Technology Donations* program repurposes technology to help students, low-income families, and charitable organizations access technology that they otherwise could not afford. In 2017 alone, Free Geek gave more than 42,000 items of technology back to the community. In most instances, Free Geek's technology donation is coupled with digital literacy skills training to ensure the recipients of the computers feel confident and safe accessing the internet.

Of course, security and privacy is a City concern. The City is confident turning over our computers to Free Geek because it takes data security very seriously. Every computer donated is routed to a dedicated secure area to undergo a strict data destruction process using NAID data sanitization standards. The City is not alone in trusting Free Geek with data security – Multnomah County, AWS Elemental and On Semiconductor are also donation partners.

We hope you will join us in recognizing that the societal cost of digital exclusion is great. Without functional access to the internet, full participation in nearly every aspect of society is compromised – from economic success and educational achievement, to positive health outcomes and civic engagement. We believe we can create a better, more prosperous, digitally connected community by working together. We encourage you to contact Free Geek (information below), and join us on this journey.

Sincerely,

Mayor Wheeler
City of Portland



Free Geek Corporate Technology Donations
503-232-9350
incoming@freegeek.org