

# TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: March 8, 2022

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To: Mayor and Town Council

From: Kirk W. Blouin, Town Manager

Re: Accept Information Technology donations from Kenneth A. Horowitz Family Foundation

Date: February 22, 2022

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Town received intention of donations from the Kenneth A. Horowitz Family Foundation in the form of a Starlink satellite and a monetary donation of \$50,000 to start a Technology Fund under the discretion and direction provided by the Town Manager.

The Foundation's donation of the Starlink highspeed network satellite system will enhance the Town's computer and network systems by providing connection redundancy, additional failover and disaster recovery capabilities, and expanded data bandwidth for daily operations. StarLink is satellite based highspeed internet technology developed by Elon Musk and SpaceX using consumer friendly hardware with a network of ground transceivers and low earth orbit satellites to transmit data from point to point. Currently, there are approximately 2,000 StarLink satellites in low earth orbit with a goal of more than 42,000 satellites in orbit to complete the StarLink satellite grid. The technology was originally developed to provide highspeed internet access to remote and underserved areas of the globe, but the realization of cost and implementation advantages, StarLink is rapidly expanding its uses in modern industrial areas as well. The system costs \$2,500 for the purchase of the satellite dish and router, and monthly subscription charge of \$500 that donor will provide payment for.

Per Town Administration Policy No. 1-08-08 (Attachment A), any donation with a value over \$25,000, which is not included in the Town's budget, must be approved by Town Council. A gift agreement, which has been approved by the Town Attorney, will be executed by the donor and Town Manager if the Town Council approves the donation acceptance.

## **FUNDING/FISCAL IMPACT**

The monetary donation will be forwarded to the Finance Department for deposit.

The Information Technology Department will coordinate receipt of the Starlink satellite.

Attachments

KB:js

cc: Jane LeClainche, Director of Finance  
Andy Jadoo, Director of Information Technology