Computer Team
4/21/16

Attendees:David Owens, Melissa Pappas, Ronald Sexton, Yasmine Aminou, Gerard Forys, Aaron Smothers, Alicia Huckleby

Computer use protocol:
The new computer use protocol was discussed. The existing rules were changed because of issues with people accessing porn on hi-rise computers. There were also issues with people accessing offensive sites and doing illegal downloading on the hi-rise wi-fi.
There also is the issue that the computers and wi-fi are paid for with federal funds and those monies can't be used for certain things. There also is the issue of liability if someone is caught watching child porn or torrenting movies. The hi-rise and the PHA would be liable in these cases.

Questions were asked about what phishing sites were and what P2P sites were. Phishing sites are scam sites that mimic legitimate sites in an attempt to get access to people's personal information. P2P sites are sites where people download things like movies and music illegally. (Also called torrent sites)

The plan going forward is to put Norton Antivirus on the computers since we get it free with Comcast. There were concerns about how good that program is and the necessity of it.

Some categories need to be better defined. Drugs should be changed to illegal or illicit drugs since sites involving prescription drugs should not be blocked.

Adult themes and sexuality need to be clarified. Adult themes is things that aren't exactly porn but could be considered lewd or sexual. R-rated movies or MA video games could fall under the category of adult themes.

Residents can use Internet on their phones or their own mobile wi-fi devices in the community room. (Watching porn is still not allowed, however.) The Resident Council has no liability if someone is using their own Internet.

Questions were raised on whether blocking things like hate sites would be censorship. It seems like it would be a very fine line. Religious discrimination is another concern. The issue is that people should have the right to access legal information even if it offends others.

Sites are blocked based on categories. Legitimate sites may get blocked from time to time.

A question was raised about dating sites. They are blocked because libraries do and because they aren't considered educational or beneficial.

There are concerns about pushback on this new protocol. People complained about the previous one. People need to understand that the computers are a privilege and people are welcome to get their own Internet.

A question was raised about fantasy football/sports and if that should be allowed. (Fan duel, NFL draft, Draftkings, etc.) Aaron will look into that. These sites require real money to play which might categorize them as gambling.

Norton antivirus:
There are questions on whether it is necessary. Norton isn't a bad product but it can be a resource hog.
It would be better protection than using free products. It is suggested to at least try it out.

Quotes are still being gotten for Office 2016.