



August 14, 2008

The Honorable Michael Nutter
Mayor
City of Philadelphia
City Hall
Room 215
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Mayor Nutter,

For over 15 years, the Critical Path Project has been a major force in the Greater Philadelphia metropolitan region and worldwide in bridging the digital divide, offering free dial up Internet access and email accounts with no ads and no restrictions to over 10,000, mostly low-income families, as well as offering email, website hosting, and electronic mailing list hosting to local non-profit organizations, DHS family centers, and affinity groups throughout the nation.

They are currently the Internet backbone for the majority of HIV and LGBTQ organizations in Philadelphia, and thousands of members of these communities utilize our free services. This is particularly important for those who cannot afford high speed connections at home. If Critical Path is forced to close it, the loss will resonate throughout Philadelphia.

BEBASHI currently depends on Critical Path for several e-mail accounts and, most importantly, as the host of our website. BEBASHI'S website is more than just a marketing tool-it also provides important information about sexual health issues to thousands of individuals a year, many of them young people. We also have several consumers that depend on Critical Path for their e-mail.

In closing, Critical Path plays a vital role in Philadelphia's Human Services arena. Its loss would create a hardship for many low income individuals and non profit organizations at a time when the economy has forced many to either tighten their belts or do without. We urge you to find the means to refund the Critical Path Project.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration

Sincerely,

Gary J. Bell
Executive Director