



For Immediate Release

Pratt Library Expands Connectivity Solutions with the Help of Crown Castle
New wireless access at Enoch Pratt Free Libraries extend Wi-Fi coverage outdoors
At libraries across Baltimore City

Baltimore, MD (October 31, 2022)— Today, Enoch Pratt Free Library announced more Baltimore City residents will have the ability to connect to free Wi-Fi with three new locations with outdoor access through support from [Crown Castle's Connected by Good](#) program. The expanded outdoor Wi-Fi service is now available at the Library's Canton, Reisterstown Road, and Light Street branches.

The new installations are part of a larger effort to have outdoor Wi-Fi across Baltimore City at Enoch Pratt Free Library's [22 locations](#) to help combat digital inequity. According to an [Abell Foundation report](#), 96,000 households in Baltimore, nearly 40 percent, lack wired internet access—the majority of those homes being low-income and communities of color. To help get more city residents connected, Enoch Pratt Free Library has free Wi-Fi, available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, now at 15 city locations. In the last year, more than a million Wi-Fi sessions were logged at Pratt branches including 61,025 unique devices (users) with 115,019 sessions using exterior Wi-Fi.

As the largest provider of shared communications infrastructure in the United States, Crown Castle's network, which provides wireless connectivity, plays an important role in addressing digital equity. According to the [Pew Research Center](#), minority and low-income individuals are more likely to rely on their smartphones to access the internet, making mobile broadband key to participating in the digital economy. This latest partnership with Pratt Library builds on the company's commitment to expand wireless access for those who need it most.

"We know there are families across Baltimore City who are struggling without reliable access to the internet. Now they can depend on the Pratt Library to have 24/7 internet access outside our library branches whenever they need it thanks to the generous support of companies like Crown Castle. This is just one of the ways the Pratt is developing partnerships to bridge the digital divide in our community," said Enoch Pratt Free Library President and CEO Heidi Daniel.

"Enoch Pratt Free Library is meeting a critical need for internet access in the community, but especially for those that are underserved," said Crown Castle Public Affairs Manager Ashley Greenspan. "We are proud to partner with them to advance digital equity and provide solutions that support broader access to connectivity."

Previously, Crown Castle has partnered with the Digital Harbor Foundation, the Boys and Girls Club of Baltimore, ByteBack, and other nonprofits across the state and the country.

About Enoch Pratt Free Library

The Enoch Pratt Free Library, the nation's first free library system, opened its doors in 1886, the result of the generosity and imagination of businessman and philanthropist Enoch Pratt. Mr. Pratt envisioned a public library where "races, ages, and socio-economic classes mingled and people could educate themselves—without cost," and his passionate belief continues to guide the organization. Today's Pratt Library—Baltimore's public library and the Maryland State Library Resource Center—consists of the Central Library, 21 branches, two bookmobiles, the Mobile Job Center, the Pratt Centers for Technology

Training, and the Regional Information Center. The Library's mission is to empower, enrich, and enhance the quality of life for all through equitable access to information, services, and opportunity.

About Crown Castle

Crown Castle owns, operates and leases more than 40,000 cell towers and approximately 85,000 route miles of fiber supporting small cells and fiber solutions across every major U.S. market. This nationwide portfolio of communications infrastructure connects cities and communities to essential data, technology and wireless service – bringing information, ideas and innovations to the people and businesses that need them. For more information on Crown Castle, please visit www.crowncastle.com.

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