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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
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**TELEPHONE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

Gloucester County is excited to announce that we have begun implementing VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) to enhance public service and ensure we are working toward using a more cost effective means to conduct County business.  Existing telephone systems are becoming antiquated and increasingly expensive to maintain; there is a cost associated with every single phone line required for County business under our current plan.  Phone services are an important form of communication with citizens as well as an integral part of daily County work, so looking for ways to cut costs and provide better service is more important than ever before.  VoIP gives the County access to additional features we currently have to pay for with traditional phone systems.  The return on investment for this project will be reached in a short period of time and over time, even if needs expand, our costs for this service will remain relatively static.  A noteworthy impact to citizens is the significant reduction in monthly cost over the current phone system which means saving tax dollars.

VoIP offers several enhancements that will benefit both the public and county staff.  We trust these changes will allow the public a more direct route to getting basic County information and the ability to speak to the department they want, all in a more efficient and effective manner.  Phone numbers for all County departments will remain the same to make the transition seamless and to avoid publishing costs.

When fully tested and installed, the new phone system will be activated after regular office hours to avoid interruption to county services.  Additional information will be made available in future press releases.