

# Dentons Global Smart Cities & Connected Communities Think Tank and Wireless Broadband Alliance's Connected Communities Forum

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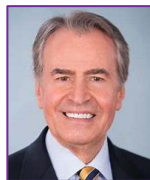
## The Power of Broadband Infrastructure to Enable Smart Cities

March 21, 2024

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET



**Opening Remarks and Moderator: Clint Vince**, Chair of the US Energy practice, Co-chair of the Global Transportation & Infrastructure sector for the US Region, and Co-chair of the Global Smart Cities & Connected Communities Think Tank, Dentons



**Introduction and Welcome: Reza Jafari**, CEO and Founder, eDevelopment International and WBA's Connected Communities Forum Advisor



**Introduction and Welcome: Steve Namaseevayum**, Vice President, Memberships and Industry Engagement, Wireless Broadband Alliance



**Rob Schwartz**,  
President and CEO,  
Anterix

*Fireside Chat*

As a career executive focused on leading business transformation, Rob has played a critical role in strategically reshaping Anterix into a leader in private wireless broadband communications for critical infrastructure.

Rob joined Anterix's predecessor, pdvWireless, as Chief Strategy Officer in 2015, where, together with Executive Chairman Morgan O'Brien, he helped to conceive and lead the execution of Anterix's vision of transformative broadband connectivity for the modern grid. Throughout his tenure with the company—becoming Chief Operating Officer and later President, CEO, and Director in 2020—Rob has progressively shaped Anterix into a creator of utility-first solutions for the industry's most pressing energy challenges, leveraging 900 MHz private wireless broadband networks.

At Anterix, Rob, with his team, has created a track record of strategic achievements. These include securing the Federal Communications Commission's decision to enable broadband development in the 900 MHz band; developing Anterix's innovative, scalable business model; building industry-wide partnerships and harnessing momentum to bring together pioneering utilities and more than 100 leading technology companies driving solutions that leverage 900 MHz broadband; and developing a game-winning leadership team to accomplish the company's transformative broadband mission. Rob also pioneered the founding of the Utility Broadband Alliance, the industry-leading utility-led organization championing private broadband networks as a key enabler of the energy transformation.

	<p>Prior to joining Anterix, Rob served in key leadership roles where he helped to build breakthrough telecommunications and technology companies, including Unison Site Management, IDT Telecom, The Associated Group, and Nextel. Rob serves as a board member of the Keystone Energy Board and the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater MetroWest NJ. He is a native of Philadelphia and a graduate of The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and The George Washington University School of Government &amp; Business Administration.</p> <p>Among his honors, Rob was shortlisted for the New Jersey Ernst &amp; Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2023 and is a recipient of the 2022 New Jersey Biz Digi-Tech Innovator Award.</p>
 <p><b>Erin Spears</b> Chief of Staff &amp; Counsel - Council Utilities Regulatory Office, New Orleans City Council</p> <p><i>Panelist</i></p>	<p>Erin Spears currently serves as chief of staff and counsel for the New Orleans City Council Utilities Regulatory Office (CURO). The New Orleans City Council has regulatory authority over Entergy New Orleans, the city's electricity and gas provider. Erin oversees the Council's regulatory acts including establishing rates, participation in OMS and related groups, as well as management of utility dockets.</p> <p>Erin is a licensed attorney in Louisiana and Pennsylvania. Prior to her position with CURO, Erin served as director of council relations for Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu and chief of staff for Councilman James A. Gray, II. Erin is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and Washington University School of Law.</p>
 <p><b>Al Jenkins</b> Board Advisor, Wireless Broadband Alliance-Connectect Communities Forum</p> <p><i>Panelist</i></p>	<p>Al is an executive level strategist/advisor of Broadband Network Implementation and Services bridging municipal broadband deployment initiatives with wireless and wireline next generation Smart City technology. SME on the assessment of real property assets and its viability for neutral host options for third party broadband providers. Al is the former Deputy Commissioner of Telecommunications Planning at NYC's Department of IT &amp; Telecommunications (DoITT) with extensive domestic and international experience with Telecommunications &amp; Broadband Planning senior officials and their initiatives to implement Smart City solutions. He has extensive knowledge of Federal, State and Local wireless citing and policy issues. Al possesses a BS in Architecture from the University of Maryland.</p>



**David Wilkins**  
Head of Smart City,  
Westminster City Council  
*Panelist*

David Wilkins is the Head of Smart City at Westminster City Council and one of his responsibilities is creating the right conditions for the market to invest in digital infrastructure across the city. Over the past eight years David has taken Westminster from being one of the poorest connected places in the UK, with connectivity similar to rural Scotland and Wales, to one of the connected places in the UK. David also chairs Business London's, The Gigabit Connectivity Network for London which brings together the public and private sector to accelerate digital network deployment.



**Michael Sherwood**  
Chief Innovation and  
Technology Officer,  
City of Las Vegas  
*Panelist*

Michael has more than 20 years of experience in the fields of process improvement, technology, and innovation. Prior to the city of Las Vegas, he served as the Deputy Director of Public Safety, Business Services & City Technology for the City of Irvine, California. Michael is extremely passionate about technology and believes through innovation, workforce development, and collaboration, we can create brighter and sustainable communities.

Michael received his Bachelor of Science degree in Management from Pepperdine University, followed by a Master of Science degree in Executive Management from the University of Southern California.