

City of Cincinnati



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Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney
Councilmember

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MOTION

WE MOVE that City Council allocate \$2.13 million from the American Rescue Plan Act for UniCity by Cincinnati Bell to install Internet in the homes of low-income families, including in Findlater Gardens, Winton Terrace, Millvale and the Stanley Rowe Towers.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney".

Councilmember Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney

Statement

Internet access has become increasingly important during the pandemic, further exposing the digital divide in our city. During the pandemic, Internet access has become an essential tool to learn, access healthcare, and participate in the economy. City Council must address digital inequity so that all Cincinnatians can have a conducive learning environment, receive care through telehealth visits, access information for physical and mental wellbeing, utilize resources for reentering the workforce such as job training, and benefit from social and government services.

The neighborhoods that will benefit from this Internet installation are disproportionately Black and low-income: Winton Hills (Findlater Gardens, Winton Terrace), the West End (Stanley Rowe Towers), and Millvale. Winton Hills is approximately 83% Black and the median household income is \$14,731, according to the American Community Survey (2019 5-Year Estimates). The West End is approximately 79% Black and 61.4% of households have an income of \$24,999 and less, according to the American Community Survey (2019 5-Year Estimates). In Millvale, the median household income is \$12,500 and 94% of residents are Black.