

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2021

RECOGNIZING April 4-10, 2021 as National Library Week in the City of Cincinnati, and **ENCOURAGING** all residents to visit a Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library branch in person or online during this week.

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library (“the Library”) helps build strong communities by ensuring equal access to resources for all Cincinnati and Hamilton County residents; working to transform neighborhoods through their essential partnerships, programs, and services; and promoting free exchange of information and ideas for all; and

WHEREAS, the Library is a much-needed community resource, with close to half a million cardholders; more than 14.5 million items borrowed, downloaded, or streamed; 229,827 meals distributed; 747,617 wi-fi sessions; more than 55,000 documents scanned or faxed; 2,424 COVID-19 tests administered with UC Health and the Health Collaborative; and over 1.9 million in-person visits in 2020 despite the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Library supports residents from birth through retirement by providing a breadth of resources and services to help them reach their personal goals, including early literacy tools for children and their parents; workforce development opportunities for adults of all experience levels; support for entrepreneurship, small businesses and non-profits; and access, training, and skill-building in new and emerging technologies; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati and the Library have partnered on projects to positively impact the community, including promoting the 2020 Census, working with the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority to provide Book Rich Environments for at-risk communities, and joining together to offer tenants’ rights and landlord education workshops in collaboration with the City of Cincinnati’s Department of Buildings and Inspections; and

WHEREAS, the Next Generation Library project (“the Project”) to re-envision Library facilities will improve all facilities located in the City of Cincinnati over the next nine years, helping to better serve today’s generation and generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the Project includes the \$7.3 million renovation and expansion of the Price Hill Branch, which opens to the public on April 12, 2021, and the \$8.3 million renovation and expansion of the Walnut Hills Branch, which broke ground in February 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Library has achieved strong community support as evidenced by nearly 63% of voters approving its tax levy in 2018, and the participation of over 3,000 community members in the development of its Facility Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Library was recognized nationally in 2020 after receiving the prestigious *Library Journal* Five-Star rating for eight consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, April 4-10, 2021 is a nationally recognized week to celebrate the invaluable contributions of the nation's more than 120,000 libraries, including those of Cincinnati's Public Library, its 42 locations, Board of Trustees, and the more than 700 staff who work tirelessly to transform the lives of Cincinnatians through lifelong learning activities, free access to information, and equal opportunities that move the community forward; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council hereby recognize April 4-10, 2021 as National Library Week in the City of Cincinnati, and that during this week, the City encourages all residents to visit a Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library branch in person or online.

Section 2. This resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council.

Passed: _____, 2021

John Cranley, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmembers Keating and Landsman