

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2022

RECOGNIZING May 17, 2022 as Imagination Library Book Day in the City of Cincinnati in honor of the Hamilton County Millionth Book Celebration, which marks the distribution of one million free books and engagement with children under the age of five throughout Cincinnati and Hamilton County to promote child literacy and development.

WHEREAS, Dolly Parton launched Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in 1995 to benefit the children of her home county in East Tennessee, USA, and foster a love of reading among her county's preschool children and their families by providing them with the gift of a specially selected book each month; and

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati Imagination Library program was established in 2015 through the funding support of Every Child Capital Venture Philanthropy Fund, in partnership with the Cincinnati affiliate of Reach Out and Read, an organization housed at Cincinnati Children's Hospital that prepares Greater Cincinnati's youngest children for success in school by local doctors prescribing reading and incorporating books into pediatric care to encourage families with children under the age of five to read aloud together; and

WHEREAS, in March of 2020, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, in conjunction with the Cincinnati Children's Hospital and the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library Hamilton County Affiliate, became available to any child under the age of five living in Hamilton County; and

WHEREAS, Cincinnati Public Schools has agreed to fund the City's program, and with the assistance of the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library, the enrollment of over 26,000 children from the Greater Cincinnati area in the Imagination Library Program has been ensured; and

WHEREAS, a child who has been read to regularly and taught to read is proven to share a stronger bond with parental figures and to demonstrate higher levels of healthy brain development, impacting language and listening skills, as well as emotional connections with family members, peers, and others; and

WHEREAS, children in low income families are less likely to be read to from birth through age five; and

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2022, the Imagination Library of Cincinnati will have distributed over one million books free of charge to children in the Hamilton County and the Greater Cincinnati area; 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 May 17, 2022 as Imagination Library Book Day in the City of Cincinnati in honor of the Hamilton County Millionth Book Celebration.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and a copy be provided to the Ohio General Assembly by the Office of Councilmember Greg Landsman.

Passed: _____, 2022

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Greg Landsman