

**Date:** March 9, 2020

**To:** Councilmember Greg Landsman

**From:** Paula Boggs Muething, City Solicitor *PBM/ALG*

**Subject:** **Resolution – Reading Awareness Month**

*202001433*

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Transmitted herewith is a resolution captioned as follows:

**RECOGNIZING** the month of March as Reading Awareness Month; and **PROMOTING** awareness of the benefits of reading in the Cincinnati community by joining with organizations such as Read Aloud, Blue Manatee Literacy Project, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Cincinnati Public Schools, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, the Literacy Network of Greater Cincinnati, and the Central Parkway YMCA to locally recognize Reading Awareness Month as it is nationally recognized.

PBM/KMB/(lnk)  
Attachment  
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RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ -2020

**RECOGNIZING** the month of March as Reading Awareness Month; and **PROMOTING** awareness of the benefits of reading in the Cincinnati community by joining with organizations such as Read Aloud, Blue Manatee Literacy Project, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Cincinnati Public Schools, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, the Literacy Network of Greater Cincinnati, and the Central Parkway YMCA to locally recognize Reading Awareness Month as it is nationally recognized.

WHEREAS, Read Aloud is a non-profit organization that aims to engage partners across the nation with the goal of encouraging parents to read to their children for at least 15 minutes per day; and

WHEREAS, 5 to 12% of school-age children are diagnosed with reading difficulties, which can result in deficits in identifying speech sounds, the recall of the conventional spelling system, executive functions (such as attention, working memory, inhibition), and secondary deficits in reading comprehension; and

WHEREAS, reading difficulties can be attributed to many medical and/or environmental sources and some reading difficulties are due to inadequate resources or lack of stimulation in the home reading environment; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that low income children are at risk of hearing 32 million fewer words than their high-income peers by age four, which can significantly impact later reading ability; and

WHEREAS, a healthy home literacy environment consists of access to literacy resources and the frequency of shared or quality reading between the parent and child, which can aid in overcoming limitations that could be imposed by aspects of a child's socioeconomic status; and

WHEREAS, research conducted by Dr. John Hutton, a pediatrician at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, has shown positive associations between a home literacy environment and the activation of regions within the developing brain that support mental imagery and the comprehension of stories; and

WHEREAS, children's books are integral in promoting language and brain growth; and

WHEREAS, during the month of March, representatives of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Dr. John Hutton and Paige Greenwood, Neuroscience Doctoral Candidate, plan to hold a seminar on reading and its relationship to brain development with strategies for parents on how to utilize literacy resources for their children; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Greenwood is also planning a drive with the help of local organizations such as Blue Manatee Literacy Project, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, the Literacy Network of Greater Cincinnati, Cincinnati Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Read Aloud, and the Central Parkway YMCA for children at College Hill Fundamental Academy, a Cincinnati Public School; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Greenwood plans to engage 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at College Hill Fundamental Academy by hosting a reading competition, where students would track the books they read for potential prizes; and

WHEREAS, City Council encourages parents in the Greater Cincinnati region to participate in the 21-day reading challenge with Read Aloud which encourages them to read to their children and post to social media; and

WHEREAS, the support of the Cincinnati City Council will be beneficial in promoting Reading Awareness Month at a local level; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That the Mayor and City Council hereby join with organizations such as Read Aloud, Blue Manatee Literacy Project, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Cincinnati Public Schools, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, the Literacy Network of Greater Cincinnati, and the Central Parkway YMCA to recognize and promote Reading Awareness Month in Cincinnati as it is nationally recognized in the month of March.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that a copy be provided to: Ms. Paige Greenwood through the office of Councilmember Greg Landsman.

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Cranley, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Greg Landsman