

EESW

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2024

RECOGNIZING the United Way of Greater Cincinnati as a 2024 Digital Inclusion Month Honoree and **EXPRESSING** the appreciation of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Cincinnati for its work in advancing digital equity throughout the City.

WHEREAS, Digital Inclusion Month is an annual initiative in October to raise awareness of the need for equitable solutions to the “digital divide” by addressing disparities in home internet access, personal devices, and local technology training and support programs; and

WHEREAS, the digital divide disproportionately affects people with disabilities, veterans, people in rural communities, and other marginalized groups, particularly in the context of obtaining affordable, reliable internet access; and

WHEREAS, during Digital Inclusion Month, local events promoting digital equity are organized around the country to drive the digital inclusion movement, providing individuals with the tools to access affordable internet, obtain essential digital devices, and develop the skills necessary to fully participate in today’s digital economy; and

WHEREAS, in February 2023, the State of Ohio established five Regional Digital Inclusion Alliances (“RDIAAs”) to champion digital equity and inclusion throughout the state, and the United Way of Greater Cincinnati (the “United Way”) was tasked with managing the RDIA for Southwest Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the United Way has worked to maximize the expansion of broadband internet access throughout Hamilton County and has been an essential partner to the City in its efforts to make broadband internet affordable and available to all City residents; and

WHEREAS, this year, the United Way conducted research to create a digital divide index for each community in Southwest Ohio, allowing them to craft a strategic plan to address the digital divide by systematically improving digital literacy, providing enhanced access to technology support services, and increasing access to digital devices; and

WHEREAS, the United Way’s strategic plan and collaboration will allow the City to efficiently leverage state, federal, and other resources that will help close the digital divide in Cincinnati; now, therefore,

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

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council recognize the United Way of Greater Cincinnati as a 2024 Digital Inclusion Month Honoree.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that a copy be provided to the United Way of Greater Cincinnati recognized through the office of Councilmember Anna Albi.

Passed: _____, 2024

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Anna Albi