



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: Feb. 2017)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 10/11/18
Agenda Item #: R.6
Est. Start Time: 10:35 a.m.
Date Submitted: 9/25/18

Agenda Title: **Proclaiming October 15-21, 2018 as International Digital Inclusion Week in Multnomah County**

Requested

Meeting Date: Thursday, October 11, 2018 **Time Needed:** 5 minutes

Department: Library **Division:** Director's Office

Contact(s): Jon Worona

Phone: 503.988.0335 **Ext.** **Email:** jonrw@multcolib.org

Jon Worona, MCL Director of Content Strategies; Rebecca Gibbons, City of Portland Office of Community Technology; DIN representative TBD

Presenters:

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Proclaiming October 15-21, 2018 as International Digital Inclusion Week in Multnomah County in recognition of the county's and the library's partnership with the National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA).

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer(s) this action affects and how it impacts the results.

In April 2016, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners (RESOLUTION NO. 2016-028) and Library District Board (RESOLUTION NO. 2016-029) and the Portland City Council adopted the Digital Equity Action Plan (DEAP) for Portland and Multnomah County. The plan identifies sixteen action items across five digital equity goals: Access, Training/Support, Leadership/Capacity Building, Connectivity to the Digital Economy, and Policy.

We ask the Board of Commissioners to proclaim October 15-21, 2018 International Digital Inclusion Week, including October 20 as Community Media Day, and we will recognize our Digital Inclusion Network partners MetroEast Community Media and Open Signal.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

N/A.

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

The cost of digital exclusion is great. Without access, full participation in nearly every aspect of American society — from economic success and educational achievement, to positive health outcomes and civic engagement — is compromised. The digital equity action plan targets access and adoption gaps for excluded and disadvantaged communities, specifically those with low incomes, older adults, communities of color, people with disabilities and those with limited English proficiency. An estimated 15 percent of Portland-area households do not have Internet access at home. The primary reason is cost, with lack of devices and training trailing close behind. People of color, recent immigrant communities, older adults, people with disabilities and those with low incomes are disproportionately likely to lack broadband Internet access and the skills and tools to use it effectively.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

In developing the Digital Equity Action Plan (DEAP), Multnomah County Library and the Department of County Assets, with the City of Portland's Office for Community Technology, facilitated a community-driven process for evaluating digital equity strategies involving over 100 people and 30 organizations. The Digital Inclusion Network (DIN), led by the Multnomah County Library and the City of Portland Office of Community Technology staff, is charged with plan implementation. DIN members represent more than 30 organizations, including non-profits that serve digitally excluded communities, higher education, school districts, broadband service providers, small businesses and representatives of city and county government, all partnering to achieve DEAP goals.

Digital inclusion week aims to increase awareness and commitment to digital inclusion, create opportunities for regional and national focus, promote engagement and learning, and act as a catalyst to build an enduring coalition of regional and national digital inclusion alliances and international efforts to create global momentum towards a fully digitally included world. The week will include increasing awareness through local events, learning opportunities and social media.

Required Signature

**Elected
Official or
Department
Director:**

/s/ Vailey Oehlke

Date:

9/25/18