

LRB – RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

ITEM 11, 051588

APRIL 5, 2006

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File #051588 is a resolution relative to an application, acceptance and funding of a Public Access Computer Hardware Upgrade Program Grant by Milwaukee Public Library.

Background and Discussion

1. This resolution authorizes Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) to apply for, accept and fund the Public Access Computer Hardware Upgrade Program Grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The purpose of the project is to provide sustainable public access computer hardware and software.
2. The grant supports the city-wide strategic goals: 1) Fostering an environment recognizing the importance of lifelong learning, focusing on the educational needs of children, and providing Milwaukee's youth with the skills needed to obtain a job, pursue additional training or go on to college; and, 2) Promotes opportunities for lifelong learning and improvements to the City's quality of life provided by MPL.

The grant also supports the Library goals: 1) Develop and provide training opportunities in the use of technology-based resources for the public; and, 2) Increase citizen use of computer-based resources by providing access to computers, networks and automated services.

3. The Public Access Computer Hardware Upgrade grant will fund replacement of computers in designated libraries in the City of Milwaukee. The libraries include: Atkinson, Bay View, Center Street, East, Forest Home, Martin Luther King, Mill Road, Villard Avenue, Washington Park and Central Library. These libraries were chosen based on the poverty level determined by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
4. The total grant of \$141,104 is for personnel costs, fringe benefits and equipment. Equipment costs, \$132,000, account for most of the grant and include 140 computers and monitors.
5. The grant period is from March 31, 2006 through December 31, 2008.

Fiscal Impact

1. The total amount of the Public Access Computer Hardware Upgrade grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is \$141,104 in funding. The grantor share is \$132,000, 94% and the city in-kind share is \$9,104, 6%.

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April 4, 2006