

**LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU FISCAL ANALYSIS**

**COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**ITEM 8, FILE #090522**

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2009**

**AMY E. HEFTER**

File Number 090522 is a resolution relative to application, acceptance and funding of a Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Grant.

**Background**

1. This resolution authorizes the Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) to apply for, accept and fund the Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Grant project from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. The purpose of the project is to serve the blind and physically impaired of the state by providing reading material on cassette tapes, Braille books and digital talking books. This is a continuation grant.
2. Since the early 1970's, the grant funding has been used for personnel costs, staff development, general office supplies, newsletters, books and machine labels, Braille books, equipment repair and maintenance, and computer and library materials.

**Discussion**

1. The grant funds following 15 positions:
  - 1 position of Management Librarian (FT)
  - 1 position of Librarian III (FT)
  - 1 position of Librarian II (FT)
  - 1 position of Library Services Assistant (FT)
  - 1 position of Office Assistant II (FT)
  - 2 positions of Audio Machine Technician (FT)
  - 4 positions of Library Circulation Assistant I (FT)
  - 1 position of Circulation Aide (at 1,000 Hours)
  - 3 positions of Library Reference Assistant (FT)
2. In addition to personnel costs, the grant also funds operating expenditures and equipment associated with providing this service.

**Fiscal Impact**

1. The extension of this grant provides for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to pay the City \$961,300 in funding support for the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. There is no City in-kind contribution.
2. The grant period is from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010; the grant period conforms to the State fiscal year.
3. Footnotes in the positions ordinance will be amended to have the position authority expire on June 30, 2010 unless the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Grant is extended.

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