

Reply to Common Council File No. 070962
From DOA Budget and Management Division

January 8, 2009

Ref: 07012

Common Council File Number 070962 is a resolution relating to the creation of a Digital Inclusion Initiative.

The resolution authorizes the Department of Administration (DOA) to coordinate a Digital Inclusion Initiative to promote affordable Internet access and training to all citizens of Milwaukee, especially low-income and disadvantaged citizens. DOA will also coordinate creation of a Digital Inclusion Fund, to be managed by the Milwaukee Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). DOA is authorized to accept contributions of usable technology equipment to support the Initiative. DOA will also submit a biannual report to the Council on the Initiative.

As part of the Facilities Use and License Agreement with Midwest Fiber Networks (MFN), access is provided for Milwaukee citizens to 60 free websites and a Milwaukee Digital Divide Fund was created with a \$150,000 contribution from MFN. DOA will seek additional contributions of both funding and technology resources, including donations of usable obsolete equipment from city departments, for the Digital Divide Fund. The Fund will be used to address the digital divide in Milwaukee. The city will also work with the nonprofit One Economy Corporation to create a web portal directed towards low income and disadvantaged Milwaukee citizens.

This resolution has no tax levy fiscal impact. It does authorize DOA to accept financial contributions that can be expended to support digital inclusion activities.

RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT FILE NUMBER 070962

Eric C. Pearson
Budget and Policy Manager

ECP:dmr

FINANCE:070962sr.doc