

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE SIGNATURE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ON THE GRANT APPLICATION TO THE AT&T FOUNDATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000 FOR THE LITERACY COALITION TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF ILLITERACY IN WASHTENAW COUNTY AND DEVELOP A COHESIVE, ROBUST, INTEGRATED NETWORK OF LITERACY SERVICES; AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN THE NOTICE OF GRANT AWARD; AMENDING THE BUDGET; AND AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN DELEGATE CONTRACTS

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 2, 2008

WHEREAS, despite its reputation for academic excellence, Washtenaw County faces an illiteracy crisis with over 27,000 adults lacking the most basic literacy skills; and

WHEREAS, high school non-completion rates exceed 12% on average, and the fourth-best school district suffers from a dropout rate of 18%, according to locally derived data; and

WHEREAS, these alarming statistics are amplified among minority populations and young children are particularly at risk (nation-wide statistics show that a full 50% of children with illiterate parents grow up to be illiterate themselves); and

WHEREAS, one can clearly see the intergenerational impact of illiteracy, and the role of literacy as a root cause contributor both to individual life success as well as to the overall health and vibrancy of the entire community; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners established the Literacy Coalition in July 2007 (Resolution # 07-138) in recognition of the urgent need to address illiteracy across stakeholder groups – including academia, government, private and non-profit service providers, and the business sector; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, the Coalition has developed a Blueprint to End Illiteracy in Washtenaw County that includes strategies to create a comprehensive system of services to break the cycle of illiteracy in the County; and

WHEREAS, this mission will be achieved through a multi-tiered approach that addresses not only basic acquisition of literacy skills (from birth through adulthood) but also application of specialized literacy skills (health, workforce/computer, and financial literacy); and

WHEREAS, the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation and the James A. & Faith Knight Foundation recently approved grants to support the planning phase of this project; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition is now approaching other funders, including AT&T and other community leaders, to begin implementation of the plan; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition was invited to apply to the AT&T Foundation for a grant that would enhance public awareness of illiteracy in Washtenaw County and develop a cohesive, robust, integrated network of literacy services; and

WHEREAS, this matter has been reviewed by Corporation Counsel, the Finance Department, Human Resources, the County Administrator's Office, and the Ways and Means Committee.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby ratifies the signature of the County Administrator on the grant application to the AT&T Foundation in the amount of \$50,000 for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners takes the following actions contingent upon the receipt of the grant award in conformity with the grant application:

1. Authorizes the Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award
2. Amends the budget, as attached hereto and made a part hereof
3. Authorizes the Administrator to sign delegate contracts in conformity with the application/award upon review of Corporation Counsel, to be filed with the County Clerk.