

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Proclaim May 7-11, 2018 to be Digital Inclusion Week in Portland.

Contact name: Rebecca Gibbons

Contact phone: (503) 823-5515

Presenter name: Mayor Wheeler

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

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.

In April 2016, City Council adopted the Digital Equity Action Plan (DEAP). The DEAP provides a framework for local partners to collaborate on 17 strategic actions that target inequities in access to high-speed internet, devices to use the internet, and relevant training to gain digital literacy skills with a focus on serving excluded and disadvantaged communities.

DEAP implementation has elevated the City as a national leader in digital inclusion efforts to keep our residents economically and culturally healthy in a rapidly changing communications technology landscape.

National Digital Inclusion Week is an opportunity for Portland to continue to share stories and join conversations across the country about the importance of ensuring that our most vulnerable residents are included in the digital society.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

None.

Community impacts and community involvement:

The Digital Inclusion Network (DIN) is a local coalition of community organizations interested in raising awareness about digital equity barriers and developing solutions to bridging the digital divide. DIN partners, community-based organizations, public agencies and business partners, etc. are organizing to share details about existing digital inclusion programs happening during the week. Throughout the week, our partners will use social media to spread awareness and collect and share DEAP impact stories.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

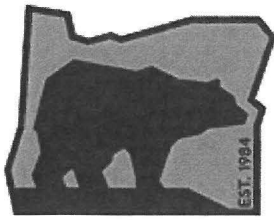
Does this action change appropriations?

YES: Please complete the information below.

NO: Skip this section

Impact Statement for Requested Council Action

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount



Oregon Citizens' Utility Board

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05/09/2018

**Testimony of Samuel Pastrick, Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB)
Before City of Portland Council
Re: Digital Inclusion Week Proclamation**

Good morning. For the record, my name is Samuel Pastrick, Outreach Manager at Oregon Citizens' Utility Board, or CUB.

At several points over the last handful of years, I've spoken before City Council regarding work in the City, either around digital equity and inclusion, or information and communications technology policy more generally.

The focus of my testimony today is how the Digital Equity Action Plan, or "DEAP", and Digital Inclusion Network member participation, has already driven, and will continue to drive, good and impactful public policy.

For instance, goal number five of the DEAP reads: "Build a policy framework that supports digital equity and meaningful Internet adoption, leading to better community outcomes." This goal is followed by a set of core objectives and strategic actions.

For the purpose of this testimony, however, I want to highlight two key objectives:

The first is: "Elected officials advocate for digital equity and suggest community-centered and delivered solutions." The second is: "Statewide legislation mandating transparency and clarity in broadband contract language."

The good news is that I can sit here today and report with confidence that elected officials, present company included, do in fact advocate for digital equity and support community-centered and delivered solutions.

A prime example of this Advocacy is Mayor Wheeler's staunch support for network neutrality.

Indeed, if elected officials failed to advocate for digital equity and endorse a community approach, I wouldn't be here today, and there would most certainly be no Digital Inclusion Week Proclamation, or 2018 Digital Inclusion Summit. Elected officials serving the City of Portland, Multnomah County, and the State at large, have come a long way since the 2014 Digital Inclusion Summit and passage of the 2016 City of Portland and Multnomah County DEAP resolutions.

And to be clear, this quantifiable and qualifiable progress is due in no small part to the Office for Community Technology, especially irreplaceable staff like Julie Omelchuck and Rebecca Gibbons, as well as committed staff at Multnomah County Library, and a litany of other community groups - of which there are simply too many to name.

The not-so-good news is that we've still a long, long way to go. Far too many Multnomah County residents live without reasonable and reliable network connectivity: 15,000 people do not have access to 25 megabit-per-second wired broadband; 8,000 County residents do not have access to any wired broadband; and 24,000 have access to one or fewer wired Internet service providers¹.

But we can get there - as a City, as a County, and as State. Yet the best way to get "there" is, first and foremost, to buoy and strengthen and acknowledge the structures and expertise on which we already rely - starting with the City's Office for Community technology.

As regards the second objective I mentioned: "Statewide legislation mandating transparency and clarity in broadband contract language" - we, and by "we" I mean the state of Oregon, accomplished this goal earlier this year.

CUB, in partnership with ACLU-Oregon and Majority Leader Williamson, and with the backing of several DIN members, passed House Bill 4155 - which is Oregon's answer to the federal repeal of the 2015 Open Internet Order.

First and foremost, the legislation requires public bodies like the City of Portland to only enter into contract with Internet service providers attesting to uphold network neutrality. Yet a lesser discussed provision of this required attestation ensures that an Internet access service provider "shall publicly disclose information regarding the provider's network management practices and performance characteristics and the commercial terms of the provider's broadband Internet access service..."²

My point here, outside of highlighting Oregon's continued leadership with regard to net neutrality, is that CUB's leadership-advocacy efforts around issues like net neutrality, or data protection, or "right to repair", is in no small part an outcome of the Digital Inclusion Network forming in 2014, and then creating space at the table for organizations like CUB.

In short: The Digital Inclusions Network, and the Digital Equity Action Plan, directly inform good public policy. This public policy improves digital equity outcomes in Oregon communities because advocacy groups with lobbying clout can better tap into a network of ally organizations.

I'll close my remarks by once again commending the good work of the Office for Community Technology - because without staff like Julie and Rebecca, and Mary Beth Henry before them, as well as an expert group of volunteer Cable Regulatory Commissioners, there would be no Digital Inclusion Network; there would be no Digital Equity Action Plan; and there most certainly would be no Digital Inclusion Week Proclamation.

Thank you for your time. I'm of course happy to answer any questions.

Samuel Pastrick
Outreach Manager, Oregon Citizens' Utility Board

¹ <https://broadbandnow.com/Oregon/Portland>

² <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2018R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4155/Enrolled>

Proclaim May 7-11, 2018 to be Digital Inclusion Week in Portland

WHEREAS, Digital Equity means everyone has adequate access to and understanding of information and communications technologies regardless of socioeconomic status, physical ability, language, race, gender or any other characteristics that have been linked with unequal treatment; and

WHEREAS, Digital Inclusion is the activities and supports necessary to ensure Digital Equity is obtained for our most disadvantaged populations; and

WHEREAS, using the internet is no longer optional to fully participate in education, the economy, healthcare, and civic and cultural life; and

WHEREAS, through community engagement to develop the City's Digital Equity Action Plan (DEAP), we learned digital equity for our residents means access to things like relevant technology training and tech support, affordable or free high-speed internet at home, and affordable computing devices; and

WHEREAS, the Digital Inclusion Network, a consortium of community-based organizations, businesses, schools, and libraries, is leading our collective effort to provide programs and activities, aligned with DEAP strategic actions and focused on serving our most digitally marginalized residents, such as seniors, those with disabilities, and low-income families; and

WHEREAS, through Digital Inclusion programs and activities, residents are learning to search for and apply for jobs, pay bills, check their child's report card, access healthcare services, protect online privacy, gain job skills, and more; and

WHEREAS, this collective community effort has led to new and unique collaborations and partnerships - such as Multnomah County Library, Free Geek, Home Forward, and MetroEast Community Media collaborating on an Earn-A-Computer program or the City and Home Forward partnering to gain ConnectHomeUSA membership, thereby joining the national movement to bridge the digital divide for HUD-assisted housing residents; and

WHEREAS, the Digital Inclusion Network's demonstrated ongoing commitment to digital equity has elevated the City of Portland as a national leader in digital inclusion efforts to keep our residents economically and culturally healthy in a rapidly changing communications technology landscape; and

WHEREAS, National Digital Inclusion Week is an opportunity for Portland to continue to share stories and join conversations across the country about the importance of ensuring that our most vulnerable residents are included in the digital society; and

WHEREAS, by participating in Digital Inclusion Week, the City helps create a unified national voice for digital inclusion and shows support for our local organizations, public institutions and businesses on the front lines offering digital inclusion programs.

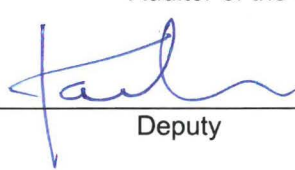
NOW, Therefore, I, Ted Wheeler, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the "City of Roses," do hereby proclaim May 7-11, 2018, to be

Digital Inclusion Week

Agenda No.
PROCLAMATION

Title

Proclaim May 7-11, 2018 to ^{be} Digital Inclusion Week in Portland. (Proclamation)

<p>INTRODUCED BY Commissioner/Auditor: Mayor Wheeler</p>	<p>CLERK USE: DATE FILED <u>MAY 01 2018</u></p>
<p>COMMISSIONER APPROVAL</p> <p>Mayor—Finance & Administration - Wheeler</p> <p>Position 1/Utilities - Fritz</p> <p>Position 2/Works - Fish</p> <p>Position 3/Affairs - Saltzman</p> <p>Position 4/Safety - Eudaly</p>	<p>Mary Hull Caballero Auditor of the City of Portland</p> <p>By:  _____ Deputy</p>
<p>BUREAU APPROVAL</p> <p>Bureau: Mayor's Office</p>	<p>ACTION TAKEN:</p> <p>MAY 09 2018 PLACED ON FILE</p>
<p>Prepared by: Tyler N. Dice Date Prepared: April 24, 2018</p>	
<p>Impact Statement Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amends Budget <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>City Auditor Office Approval:</p>	
<p>City Attorney Approval:</p>	
<p>Council Meeting Date May 9, 2018</p>	

AGENDA
<p>TIME CERTAIN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Start time: <u>9:45 a.m.</u></p> <p>Total amount of time needed: 40 min (for presentation, testimony and discussion)</p>
<p>CONSENT <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>REGULAR <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Total amount of time needed: _____ (for presentation, testimony and discussion)</p>

FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:	
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz	1. Fritz	
2. Fish	2. Fish	
3. Saltzman	3. Saltzman	
4. Eudaly	4. Eudaly	
Wheeler	Wheeler	