

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

September 27, 2022

Recognizing Digital Inclusion Week

On October 5, 2021, the County of Los Angeles (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) recognized [Digital Inclusion Week: Pathways to Digital Empowerment](#) in the County. All County departments, employees, and residents were directed to commit to taking action to empower under-connected communities and focus services to achieve digital equity.

As impactful as Digital Inclusion Week was in 2021, it is estimated that more than 425,000 households lack internet subscriptions, and 214,000 households are without a home computer in the County. The most impacted areas are low-income neighborhoods and among populations that are predominantly Black and Latino. Nearly 300 middle and high schools are located in communities facing socioeconomic disparities associated with the digital divide.

As part of the County’s Delete the Divide Initiative and in recognition of [Digital Inclusion Week](#) (October 3 – 7, 2022), the Internal Services Department (ISD) will be hosting the inaugural 2022 Tech Empowerment Day at SoFi Stadium on October 6, 2022. This is a special event exclusively for middle and high school students in the County. The goal is to expose students to technologies that educate and inspire creativity, innovation,

- MORE -

MOTION

SOLIS	_____
KUEHL	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____
MITCHELL	_____

and aspirations. Several corporate partners and organizations will staff activity stations, training workshops, live demonstrations, and information tables. All students will be able to gain hands-on experience and behind-the-scenes exposure to modern technologies. Students will also have access to information about internships and tech careers, and educators will be able to network with corporations to explore opportunities to enhance academic enrichment.

Additionally, the federal government has taken an integral role in helping to bridge the digital divide by establishing the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which offers eligible households a monthly subsidy of up to \$30 for broadband internet service and a one-time subsidy of up to \$100 for the purchase of a computer, laptop, or tablet. Only one-third of eligible households in the County are enrolled in the program and more than 1 million eligible households have yet to sign up. A common concern and well-documented issue preventing thousands of households from internet adoption is the lack of a computer device.

The County's ACP promotional campaign has referred people to resources where they can borrow and purchase computer equipment but should also assist in providing laptops to residents in need. In August 2022, ISD administered a competitive solicitation to procure thousands of devices for ACP-eligible households and included provisions for the successful bidder to perform community relations, needs assessments, technical support, and digital literacy training.

It is critical that the County continue to build on its commitment to digital equity by recognizing the Tech Empowerment Day on October 6, 2022, acknowledging Digital Inclusion Week (October 3 – 7, 2022), and increasing access to computer devices for those households that cannot afford them.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Recognize "[Digital Inclusion Week: Turning Our Moment into Movement](#)" from October 3 – October 7, 2022 in Los Angeles County.
2. Authorize the Director of the Internal Services Department (ISD), or his designee, to negotiate and execute agreements, including sole source agreements, with Google, and any other contractors, approved as to form by

County Counsel, to amend and terminate such agreements, not to exceed \$200,000 and to take any other actions necessary and appropriate to facilitate and identify funding for the 2022 Tech Empowerment Day at SoFi Stadium on October 6, 2022.

3. Authorize the Director of ISD, or his designee, to ask for and receive donations or other gifts in any amount, subject to County budgetary guidelines and practices, on behalf of the Delete the Divide Initiative to benefit schools, students, and families from historically underserved areas of the County who participate in the October 6, 2022, Tech Empowerment Day.
4. Authorize the Director of ISD, or his designee, through the Delete the Divide Initiative to distribute computer devices to households that enroll in the Affordable Connectivity Program for the first time, subject to a needs assessment.
5. These actions are deemed necessary to meet the social needs of the population of the County and serve a public purpose consistent with Government Code Section 26227.

###

(CT)