



## CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Honorable City Council

**Item No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**FROM:** City Administrator

**SUBJECT:** DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF HUMAN-I-T  
PARTNERSHIP REQUEST

**MEETING DATE:** October 16, 2018

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Discussion to consider human-I-T's request to partner on a worthwhile digital inclusion initiative and workforce training program that empowers underserved populations in the digital age; And/or, provide appropriate direction to staff, including drafting a memorandum of understanding if City Council wishes to support this initiative.

### **Human-I-T PROPOSAL:**

human-I-T is seeking to partner with the City of Commerce to create a digital inclusion program. Through this partnership, low-income residents will receive free computer hardware and digital literacy training, as well as low-cost internet. In total, they are requesting \$100,000 as the catalyst for this initiative.

As a part of this collaboration, human-I-T will:

1. Donate a complete computer system to 500 low-income individuals (valued at \$50,000). Each computer will include Windows 10 and Microsoft Office Suite, as well as six months of technical support from our team.
2. Provide free digital literacy training to an additional 125 Commerce residents, ranging from teenagers to senior citizens. This course will enable users to navigate the internet, utilize word processing software, and maintain internet privacy among other skills. Every individual that completes training will receive a computer system for free as well.
3. Educate recipients about low-cost internet options (starting at \$15/month) and connect them to high-speed internet. Every individual that connects to the internet will have the option to purchase a computer system for as low as \$50.
4. Provide free, enterprise-grade data security to companies in Commerce that donate their excess technology to human-I-T. Currently, the industry averages around \$5 to wipe a drive; for a company with hundreds of employees, this can add up to thousands of dollars in data security annually.

A minimum of 625 residents will be provided a free computer, digital literacy course, and/or low-cost internet in the pilot year, at a total rate of \$160 per recipient. Considering the average household size of 3.6 people in Commerce, these devices will be used by approximately 1,800 residents (*Los Angeles Times*, "Household Sizes", 2016).

As a part of the partnership, human-I-T asks that the City of Commerce:

1. Contribute \$100,000 for the pilot year
2. Identify recipients in the local community that would benefit most from the distribution, via collaborations with community-based organizations
3. Work with local businesses and the City of Commerce to raise awareness about human-IT as a solution for e-waste and low-cost internet

Staff would recommend scaling back the pilot year from their request for \$100,000 to a lower mutually agreed-upon amount that human-I.T. could then match by fundraising through other community sources.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

human-I-T is a 501(c)3 nonprofit based and founded in Commerce, California. Their stated mission is to connect under-resourced individuals with the skills and tools necessary to thrive in the digital era. They report that they equip low-income households & nonprofits to technology, internet, and digital training.

human-I-T does this by taking excess technology from businesses and individuals, refurbishes it, and donates it back to low-income households. The objective is straightforward: less technology waste and more people with technology. Each donation is paired with free digital literacy training and low-cost internet so recipients can fully harness the power of their devices. As they repurpose electronics, human-I-T provides vocational training to community members. Individuals learn how to refurbish computer hardware and administer technical support. This process is hands-on and under the guidance of experienced IT staff. Training is offered to individuals from all walks of life - for free - so residents can carve a path to the STEM field.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Unknown at this time. Staff would request authorization for a budget appropriation, perhaps using Commerce Community Benefits Funds for whatever amount the City Council wishes to contribute towards human-I-T's mission.

#### **RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC GOALS:**

The issue before the Council is consistent with the City's "Green Zone Action Plan," which focuses on reducing environmental impacts throughout the community and integrates economic growth, resulting in a positive impact on the quality of life and the City's financial sustainability.

Prepared by: Edgar P. Cisneros, City Administrator  
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Respectfully submitted: Edgar P. Cisneros, City Administrator

Attachment: human-I-T Proposal Letter