

Item \_\_\_\_\_

Moved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by: Rebecca Good

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by: Craig E. Willis

RESOLUTION AWARDING COUNTY FUNDS FROM THE FY 2017 OPERATING BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$29,000.00 TO BOOKS FROM BIRTH, INC., A CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION. SPONSORED BY COMMISSIONER WALTER BAILEY, COMMISSIONER STEVE BASAR, COMMISSIONER WILLIE BROOKS, COMMISSIONER MELVIN BURGESS, COMMISSIONER REGINALD MILTON AND COMMISSIONER VAN TURNER.

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WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Community Enhancement Program Resolution (Agenda Item No. 24) passed on August 1, 2016 (the "CEP Resolution"), the Shelby County Board of Commissioners created a Community Enhancement Program and established policies and guidelines for the appropriation and disbursement of County funds to governmental entities and non-profit civic and charitable organizations meeting certain criteria, as set forth therein; and

WHEREAS, Said CEP Resolution provides that all grant appropriations pursuant to the Community Enhancement Program shall promote the general welfare of the residents of Shelby County and shall only be available to support public safety activities, cultural activities, community development activities, as well as County and municipal infrastructure improvements within Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, Said Resolution provides that community enhancement grant proceeds must be used for one (1) or more of the following purposes: programs, services, operating costs, equipment, construction, renovation and maintenance projects within Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, Said Resolution provides that such grants shall be approved to specific entities by resolution of the County Board of Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, That funds from the FY2017 Operating Budget are hereby allocated and awarded to Books From Birth, Inc. in the amount of \$29,000.00 as a grant listed in Exhibit A hereto for the projects detailed in the attached plan of services for the grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That said grant proceeds must promote the general welfare of the residents of Shelby County and support public safety activities, cultural activities, community development activities, as well as County and municipal infrastructure improvements, and must be used for one (1) or more of the following purposes: programs, services, operating costs, equipment, construction, renovation and maintenance projects within Shelby County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer shall prepare and execute a grant contract with the specific entities designated herein within thirty (30) days of the grantee's compliance with the grant awarding conditions set forth in the CEP Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That payment of grant funds shall be made as provided by the CEP Resolution and the grant contract.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Mayor and the Director of Administration and Finance are hereby authorized to issue their warrant or warrants for all amounts appropriated herein, and to take proper credit in their accounting therefor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Resolution shall become effective in accordance with the Shelby County Charter, Article II, Section 2.06(B).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.  
Shelby County Mayor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of County Commission

ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibit A**  
**Community Enhancement Grants**  
**FY 2017**

**Per Resolution (Agenda Item No. \_\_) passed \_\_\_\_\_, 2017**

Books From Birth, Inc.

**Grant Agency** Books From Birth, Inc.

**Type of Grant** Program

**Grant Amount** \$29,000.00

**Sponsor(s)** Commissioner Walter Bailey \$5,000.00

Commissioner Steve Basar \$5,000.00

Commissioner Willie Brooks \$5,000.00

Commissioner Melvin Burgess \$5,000.00

Commissioner Reginald Milton \$5,000.00

Commissioner Van Turner \$4,000.00

**Purpose** Books From Birth (BFB) promotes kindergarten readiness and strengthens family bonds in Shelby County by providing books for all children from birth to age five at no cost to families. More than 42,000 children in Shelby County benefit from BFB each year. There is no cost to families to take part in the program. Outreach to enroll children in the program and collaborating with community partners to make sure young children receive books is the cornerstone of BFB's works. During the past eleven years, BFB has mailed over 4 million books to children throughout Shelby County, after an initial shipment of 2,500 books in 2005. Children from every neighborhood in the county are served through this program. Over 60,000 children have graduated from the program at age five and 64% of children in Shelby County are currently enrolled, with many more having participated without graduating. Funds allocated through the County Commission Community Enhancement Grant program will be utilized to fund the local cost of providing

Shelby County children with books in the home every month for an entire year. Locally, it costs \$21 dollars to provide a Shelby County child with a book each month for an entire year. This small and smart investment changes children's lives by inspiring them to read more, learn more and BE more. Effectiveness of the program is demonstrated through research conducted by the Urban Child Institute in partnership with the former Memphis City Schools. This research indicates that families participating in BFB: 1) are more likely to read with children, go to the library, talk about books, sing the ABC's; 2) enjoy reading; 3) experience better family reading habits and greater comfort reading to children; and 4) have stronger reading readiness scores. A follow-up study performed in 2014 and 2015 shows these children were most likely to be in the highest performing tier, showing he program has staying power. Books From Birth is uniquely equipped to be successful. It is a smart, simple and effective investment to help Shelby County build and sustain a community of readers.