**PROCLAMATION**

***WHEREAS,*** *the Mayor of the City of Columbus, Ohio, has the authority to recognize occasions of outstanding significance; and*

***WHEREAS,*** *in the digital age, educational outcomes and economic mobility are tied directly to the ability to get online; and*

***WHEREAS,*** *neighborhoods across the nation are experiencing a digital divide; and*

***WHEREAS,*** *the COVID-19 health crisis has shed light on the need for home internet service, and the large number of American households in all kinds of communities who do not have it; and*

***WHEREAS,*** *Digital Inclusion Week 2021 is sponsored by the National Digital Inclusion Alliance, representing more than 600 affiliated organizations working together to reach our common goal: that all people have access and use of the Internet and the tools they need to use it; and*

***WHEREAS,*** *Digital Inclusion Week 2021 aims to raise awareness of solutions addressing home internet access, personal devices, and local technology training and support programs.*

***NOW, THEREFORE,*** *I*, *Andrew J. Ginther, Mayor of the City of Columbus, Ohio, do hereby proclaim October 4th-October 8th as:*

***Digital Inclusion Week 2021***

*and urge all residents of Columbus to join in recognition of this significant occasion.*

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF,*** *I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Mayor of the City of Columbus, Ohio, to be hereto affixed this 4th day of October, 2021.*

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***Andrew J. Ginther***

***Mayor***