



City of Cambridge

O-10
IN CITY COUNCIL
January 27, 2020

MAYOR SIDDIQUI
VICE MAYOR MALLON
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

- WHEREAS: Congress enacted the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) in 1975 in order to offset the burden of Social Security taxes on taxpayers with low-income, to supplement wages and provide a direct cash refund to households; and
- WHEREAS: Since its enactment in 1975, the EITC has lifted millions of families above the poverty line, maintaining a high participation rate relative to other programs designed to serve those with low-income; and
- WHEREAS: Each year, millions of employed Americans and thousands of employed Massachusetts residents are eligible for the EITC, but do not realize that they qualify or know how to claim it; and
- WHEREAS: The Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee (CEOC) is a certified IRS VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) site and provides free tax preparation with electronic filing, which can return taxpayers' refunds in 10 days or less; and
- WHEREAS: The CEOC provides this service in English, Spanish, Haitian Kreyol, Amharic and Portuguese at its 11 Inman Street office and at sites throughout the Cambridge community in order to make the filing process easy for all tax filers; and
- WHEREAS: The CEOC completed over 2,500 tax returns in 2019, resulting in over \$5.1 million in state and federal refunds, including over \$1.5 million in EITC; and
- WHEREAS: The CEOC also assists tax filers in applying for SNAP and other public benefits, including health insurance and ITINs (Individual Tax Identification Numbers), and provides financial education and coaching, individual credit counseling, and FAFSA preparation assistance to support families in achieving economic security; and
- WHEREAS: The EITC increases revenues in Cambridge and boosts the overall economy; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record proclaiming January 31, 2020 as “*Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day*” in the City of Cambridge, and that working individuals and families in Cambridge be encouraged to recognize the benefits of the EITC and utilize the CEOC’s free tax preparation services to claim the credit and avoid for-profit tax preparer fees.

In City Council January 27, 2020.
Order Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.
Attest:- Anthony I. Wilson, City Clerk

A true copy;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony I. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ATTEST:-

Anthony I. Wilson, City Clerk