CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, reading is a fundamental skill necessary to be successful in today's society and within the global economy; and

WHEREAS, reading not only develops a person's creativity, but impacts critical thinking and an individual's ability to comprehend concepts and ideas, increases concentration, writing and communication skills and perhaps most importantly self esteem; and

WHEREAS, Memphis City Schools has seen the negative effects of poor reading skills as thousands of students are not in their appropriate grade level; and

WHEREAS, improving these students' reading ability is key to preparing them to lead successful and productive lives as well as paramount to the City's capacity to attract high end employers to locate within our boundaries; and

WHEREAS, Memphis City Schools has the desire to create two fundamental programs to immediately address getting students placed in their age appropriate grade level; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis City Council believes that our children should be adequately prepared and given the opportunity to be successful despite whatever obstacles or challenges that may be present.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Memphis City Council hereby amends the Fiscal Year 2009 O&M Budget to appropriate $2.4 million for Memphis City Schools to assist with the funding needs of Memphis Literacy Corp and the Summer Reading Clinic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Memphis City Schools shall provide a report to the Memphis City Council of the number of students served and those able to be placed in their appropriate grade level the second meeting in July of calendar year 2009.