

TO: Commissioner Nancy Jester, District 1

Commissioner Jeff Rader, District 2

Commissioner Larry Johnson, District 3

Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson, District 5

Commissioner Kathie Gannon, District 6

Commissioner Gregory Adams, District 7

FROM: Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, District 4

SUBJECT: Reprogramming of Library Funds

DATE: June 1, 2017

Dear Respected Colleagues:

### **Introduction**

Records indicate that on July 21, 2015 the Board of Commissioner approved a \$1 million allocation for a potential library in Wade Walker Park. On February 25, 2016 the Board of Commissioners approved a \$3 million allocation for the same project for a total allocation of \$4 million.

After consultation with our Library Director and our Law Department I have determined that building a new library in Wade Walker Park is simply not feasible. Moreover, I have determined that those previously allocated dollars should be reprogrammed to address other pressing needs in District 4, and I am therefore making a request to that end.

### **Wade Walker Park**

There are two primary reasons for determining not to move forward with a library in Wade Walker Park.

1. *Costs*
2. *Disputed land*

**Costs:** According to our Library Director, building a new library would cost from \$6 million - \$8 million. The allocation is only for \$4 million, with no other funding sources identified to cover the shortfall. Given this simple fact why would we pursue trying to build a new library with these funds?

**Disputed Land:** According to our Law Department there is a question regarding whether the specific area of property at Wade Walker Park to potentially be used for the library is grant restricted. This remains unresolved because of a lack documents of old grant agreements. The area where the YMCA sits is currently under review by the state and federal government for participation in the conversion process. Given these facts, prior federal approval for the site seems to be the appropriate course of action.

This strikes me as a complication that could impede progress. Why would we want to go down this path?

Given these two significant factors, the rationale for determining not to move forward with a library at this location is very sound.

### **Reprogramming**

Assuming that Wade Walker Park is off the table, I would suggest reprogramming that **\$4 million** allocation as follows:

**\$1.5 million** to refurbish the **Sue Kellogg Library** in Stone Mountain.

To that end preliminary plans have already been drawn, and preliminary cost estimates have been submitted by three reputable vendors.

Up to **\$2 million** to refurbish the **Covington Library**.

No preliminary plans have been drawn yet. However, the Covington Library was identified by the Citizens Advisory Committee for SPLOST as a priority need.

The remaining **\$500k** can either be held in **reserve** to address any potential shortfalls, or directed to possible cosmetic upgrades at the **Clarkston Library**.

### **Justification**

After reviewing allocations of previous Library Bond Funds it strikes me as pretty clear that District 4 has been short changed over the years. According to information received from our Library Director, previous allocations have broken down as follows:

#### **District 1: \$11 million**

Embry Hills, Northlake, Tucker

#### **District 2: \$ 9.8 million**

Brookhaven, Toco Hills

#### **District 3: \$10.6 million**

Ellenwood, Scott Candler

#### **District 5: \$25.1 million**

Hairston Crossing, Salem-Panola, Stonecrest, Library Processing Center

Obviously, Super Districts 6 and 7 have benefited due to the overlapping projects in their respective districts.

### **Conclusion**

In the interest of fairness, I will be strongly advocating for the reprogramming of those dollars as indicated above. I hope I can count on your support as we move forward on this front. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to let me know.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen R. Bradshaw

DeKalb County Commissioner

District 4

CC: Michael Thurmond, CEO

Zachary Williams, COO

La'Keitha Carlos, CEO's Chief of Staff

Antwyn Brown, BOC Chief of Staff

Alison Weissinger, Library Director

Jay Vinicki, Budget Director

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