

## **Approve Creation of the Library Services Task Force.**

### **Staff:**

Maurice Jones, Town Manager  
Susan Brown, Executive Director of Library, Arts and Culture

### **Department:**

Town Manager's Office  
Library, Arts and Culture

### **Overview:**

On April 20, 2021, Orange County Commissioner Jamezetta Bedford submitted a petition (attached) to the Orange County Board of Commissioners to request that Orange County connect with Chapel Hill to determine the costs of creating/expanding interoperability between the county libraries and Chapel Hill Public Library.

On May 19, 2021, the Chapel Hill Library Advisory Board submitted a petition (attached) to the Chapel Hill Town Council requesting that the Town Council work with Orange County to create a task force to study, develop, and recommend an equitable and sustainable approach to County funding for library services for all Orange County residents.

On August 31, 2021 Chapel Hill Town Mayor Hemminger sent a letter to Chair Price to request the formation of a task force to work on both of these issues relating to library funding and inter-operability.

On September 28, 2012, the Town of Chapel Hill and the County entered into an inter-local agreement regarding the funding of the Chapel Hill Municipal Library and improved interoperability of library services. The inter-local agreement between Orange County and Chapel Hill expired in 2017. In early 2015, a work group met to discuss the terms of the inter-local agreement as well as pro-actively renew the agreement. The work group was unsuccessful at revising or renewing the agreement due to the uncertainty of how the construction to replace the existing Orange County Southern Branch Library system impacts library services in Southern Orange County.

The letter from Mayor Hemminger requests that the Task Force consists of the following individuals, Chapel Hill's Library Director, Library Board Chair, Friends of Chapel Hill Library Board Chair and our Council Liaison be part of the task force. The County would appoint a BOCC representative, the Orange County Library Director, the Friends of the Orange County Library Board Chair, and the Friends of the Carrboro Library Board Chair to balance out the Task Force. In addition, the request includes hiring a trained facilitator to help lead these discussions and process with financial responsibility shared between the Town of Chapel Hill and the County.



### **Recommendation(s):**

The Town Manager recommends that the Council approve the establishment of the Library Services Task Force and direct the Manager to coordinate with the County Manager to schedule the first meeting of the Task Force.

### **Fiscal Impact/Resources:**

The current financial impact is \$536,323; this appropriation to the Chapel Hill Municipal Library is included in the Orange County's Adopted FY2021-22 Budget. Additionally, there will be a shared cost to hire a facilitator for the Task Force.

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A LIBRARY SERVICES TASK FORCE FOR THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL AND ORANGE COUNTY**

Whereas, on September 28, 2012, the Town of Chapel Hill and the County entered into an inter-local agreement regarding the funding of the Chapel Hill Municipal Library and improved interoperability of library services; and

Whereas, that inter-local agreement expired in 2017; and

Whereas, library services play an integral role in the lives of residents in Orange County and Chapel Hill.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Chapel Hill approves the creation of a Library Services Task Force to develop a new inter-local agreement between the Town and Orange County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council requests the Town Manager to work closely with Orange County's Manager to provide support for the Task Force and its work.

This, the 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.