

Petition re Orange County and Chapel Hill Library Services

April 20, 2021

From: Commissioner Jamezetta Bedford

Whereas, it would benefit OC residents to have interconnected services between the county libraries and Chapel Hill Library; and

Whereas, the SW County library to be built in Carrboro is under design with borrowing submission to the LGC targeted for late 2021;

Whereas, there may be associated costs for borrowing/collection inventory software at the new library; and

Whereas we do not have current data about the age, costs, planned replacement; potential upgrades, and general opportunities regarding the libraries in the county and towns;

I petition that Orange County connect with Chapel Hill to determine the existing situation, the costs of creating/expanding interoperability between the county libraries and Chapel Hill library, which could include using the same inventory/borrowing software for all three libraries located in OC, and should include expenses beyond software licenses such as personnel costs; travel expense; etc. If other counties or city libraries have current interoperability systems now with Chapel Hill and/or County libraries, please include that data and impact. Library directors and staff will know of other variables and considerations that need to be included in a cost/benefit analysis. It would be a shame to spend a lot of funds on the SW library system only to learn we missed an opportunity to improve the library services for all.