

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 12:23 PM
To: tweallen@gmail.com
Cc: Susan Brown; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Atuya Cornwell; Carolyn Worsley; CHRIS BLUE; James Baker; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Shay Stevens
Subject: FW: Library Task Force Final Report
Attachments: Recommendation to County Commissioners re Funding Task Force.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



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From: Tiffany Allen <tweallen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 11:02 AM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Cc: Susan Brown <sbrown2@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: Library Task Force Final Report

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RE: 2023 Library Task Force Final Report and Library Funding Agreement with Orange County.

Good morning!

In advance of Wednesday's Chapel Hill Town Council meeting, I wanted to share a letter that I submitted to the Orange County Board of Commissioners as they also consider the library task force report. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please let me know. It is a pleasure and an honor to serve on the town's Library Advisory Board, and I appreciate the opportunity to consider these issues.

Most sincerely,
Tiffany-

April 8, 2023

Dear Members of the Board of County Commissioners:

I am writing this letter in support of the Orange County Library Task Force recommendations for Orange County library funding and interoperability.

As Chair of the Chapel Hill Public Library Advisory Board, it was an honor to serve on the task force and to participate in the thoughtful discussion and sharing of history and ideas around the provision of library services to the residents of Orange County. Our thoughtful and thorough discussion of equitable funding and possible interoperability resulted in a clear consensus for our recommendations.

Orange County Library Funding

There was unanimous agreement that funding for all Orange County libraries should be both equitable and sustainable. Our recommended funding formula would allocate funding based on population, recognizing the fact that all Orange County residents are taxpayers and should receive the equal benefits of that funding. Additionally, using population as a measure is clear, transparent, and easy to assess. Because this funding approach would substantially increase the amount of existing Orange County library funding allocated to the Chapel Hill Public Library, members of the task force acknowledge that achieving an equitable percentage would require some time and recommended a phased-in approach with regular increases over a six year period.

Interoperability

Our discussions on interoperability were also fruitful, starting with efforts to define the different types of interoperability. After a lengthy group discussion with information from the directors and staff of the Chapel Hill Public Library and the Orange County Public Library, we agreed that combining operating systems was neither desirable (in terms of increasing access) nor cost-effective (given the potential increase in staff resources required). We felt the best opportunity for interoperability remains with continued communication and coordination between Chapel Hill and Orange County staff about services, policies, best practices, and public programming.

Thank you for your appointment of this task force and for the opportunity to study these large issues. Having been a member of the Chapel Hill Public Library Advisory Board who has looked at the issue of a thoughtful, equitable, and sustainable formula for county library funding (with an initial recommendation dating back to December 2019), I am thrilled at the progress that is being made on this topic. I am also greatly encouraged by the level of commitment and support that was apparent by all who participated in the work of the task force. I appreciate your time and dedication to the importance of library services across all of Orange County and I encourage you to move forward with these recommendations.

With sincere appreciation,



Tiffany Eatman Allen

Chair, Chapel Hill Public Library Advisory Board