

From: Mark Howland [<mailto:mark@howlandarchitecture.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 10:55 AM
To: John Long
Subject: Support for the Library Budget Request

Dear City Clerk Long:

I am writing in support of the Somerville Public Libraries budget request. The funding of two new positions-a Library I (generalist) and an Assistant Director-is essential for the ability of the libraries to maintain traditional services and to develop new services, programming, and technology.

- Library staffing is down 6 full time equivalents since 2008.
- The libraries now rely on overtime and part-time staff to staff public service desks.
- The loss of the Assistant Director position after the retirement of Thelma Donovan has made the Director directly responsible for both day-to-day management of staff as well as outreach, strategic planning, building renovations, and fundraising.
- The successful introduction of new programs and technology, the completion of library renovation projects, and the development of new revenue sources require the Director to devote increasing time to these vital activities.

Please share my comments with the Board of Aldermen.

Best regards,

Mark Howland
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