

From: Akil Williams [<mailto:akilwilliams1984@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2016 4:03 PM
To: John Long
Subject: FY17 Budget Review

Hello John,

Please forward my comments along to the Aldermen for the upcoming FY17 budget review:

I, Akil Williams, currently serve on the Somerville Library Board of Trustees as secretary. I have been on the Board since 2012. Please consider the following when reviewing the Library budget:

- Libraries are currently understaffed (full-time staff are down to 28 in 2016 from 34 in 2008)
- Libraries are not able to staff all public service desks without reliance upon use of overtime and part-time staff
- Librarian I (Generalist) position would help to fill coverage gaps at public service desks at all library locations, work on collection development and special projects
- Director is performing the work of the Director and (now defunct) Assistant Director
- As such the Director is not able to spend sufficient time focusing on strategic planning, partnerships, fundraising, grants, public relations, marketing, etc., due to the demands of the day-to-day operational issues
- An Assistant Director would focus on the day-to-day operational issues of the Libraries, which would allow the Library Director to spend more time on strategic planning, partnerships, fundraising, grants, public relations, marketing, etc.
- Library had an Assistant Director position until approx. 2008, since then, it has had three Directors (excluding the current Director), each of whose tenure lasted approx. 2.5 yrs, due in part, to the fact they were performing the work of two people