

General

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de la Guerra, Sheila Public Comment-Group 4.

**From:** denadavis67@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Monday, April 4, 2022 4:41 PM  
**To:** sbcob; Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Hartmann, Joan; Nelson, Bob; Lavagnino, Steve  
**Subject:** Library Funding

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

April 4, 2022

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

I am writing as a new Library Board member for the City of Santa Barbara. I also serve on our CenCal CCS/Whole Child Model Family Advisory Committee, chair the Staff Special Education Parent Advisory Committee, represent CenCal Health on the DHCS CCS Advisory Group, volunteer as a Parent Mentor for Alpha Resource Center, and most importantly, am mom to two boys, one of whom has a rare genetic syndrome, Cornelia deLange Syndrome. I'm a former classroom elementary teacher in Santa Barbara Unified and Midcoast Maine and served on the Community Action Committee with our Special Education Local Plan Area. I also own a mobile bookshop and teach creative writing. My passions are literacy, inclusion, and children's physical and mental health.

I first want to thank you for your support of the City of Santa Barbara's library branches over the years. Libraries, as you know, serve an essential role in communities that extends far beyond providing books and periodicals to patrons.

I recently participated in a Santa Barbara County Behavioral Health Mental Health focus group with Suzanne Grimmesey. We discussed the need, especially during the pandemic, for community members to have opportunities to connect and feel less isolated. Our libraries are critical community resources during pandemics and disasters as well as during "normal" times. Our family has relied on the library during heat waves, for a quiet space for my son to meet with a therapist to work on life skills, for safe outdoor activities in parks when we couldn't be indoors, and for engaging, creative online events when we needed to stay at home.

Our excellent library staff operates Library On the Go vans that serve community members beyond the city limits. They bring books, technology, storytimes, and other resources to some of our most vulnerable residents, including our seniors, people experiencing homelessness, and families with young children.

A common misconception is that Santa Barbara's per capita income exceeds that of our neighboring cities and towns when our per capita is less. When other library branches received extra county funds, they could extend their hours during the pandemic. Santa Barbara had to reduce theirs. The number of Goleta residents using the Santa Barbara Library far exceeds the number of Santa Barbara residents using the Goleta Library. And the vast reference collection serves researchers across the county. Teens who need a safe space also come from across the county, seeking support and guidance.

I ask that you continue to fund the Santa Barbara Public Library without cuts.

Sincerely,

Dena Davis  
Santa Barbara Library Board Member



**de la Guerra, Sheila**

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**From:** George Yatchisin <yatchisin@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 4, 2022 8:37 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** public comment: stop proposed cuts to Santa Barbara Public Library

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear County Supervisors--

I am shocked to hear that you are even considering a budget cut to the Santa Barbara Public Library, let alone one for \$800,000. I strongly oppose such a budget cut.

There is no public institution as democratic as a library--it is open to all, no matter age, color, gender, creed, nationality. It is a public good without compare, offering open access to information and so much more--cultural programming, reading programs, after school programs, cutting edge maker spaces. Libraries are souls of communities.

Particularly pertinent to me, the Santa Barbara Public Library has been home for community events that I have helped co-sponsor, the Santa Barbara Poetry Series and Fast & Curious: ED Talks from UCSB's Gevirtz Graduate School of Education. The former brings nationally prominent poets to town, but they share a bill with both a local poet and a local emerging poet, often from one of our town's colleges or high schools. The latter provides snapshots of the exciting teaching, research, and outreach happening at UCSB's graduate school of education, bridging the often large gap between Town and Gown. These are just two of the kinds of essential programs threatened by your draconian suggest budget cut.

Please reconsider this action.

Sincerely,

George Yatchisin  
28-year Santa Barbara resident  
Director of Communications, UCSB's Gevirtz School  
writer for the Santa Barbara Independent and Edible Santa Barbara  
local poet

## de la Guerra, Sheila

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**From:** Laure-Anne Bosselaar-Brown <loranneke@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 4, 2022 8:45 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Brown Laure-Anne  
**Subject:** My unconditional support of the Santa Barbara Public Library

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

To whom it may concern

I would like to add my voice to many others to urge you not to cut the funding for the Santa Barbara Library. This is a most supportive, important, socially essential institution and I, personally, have profited immensely from their many events, readings, art showings, & educational programs. A library is the HEART of a community, and it will be devastating for so many members of our community if the truly gigantic cut in funds considered would be voted in. This would create a tragic ripple effect for the disadvantaged who only have the library as support for children programs -- literacy, reading tutoring — as well as for a most important adult/senior population (and the bilingual literacy especially!). As a Poet Laureate Emerita of Santa Barbara (2019 to 2021) I ask you with the greatest insistence not to cut the budget of such an essential community service.

Respectfully,

Laure-Anne Bosselaar  
Poet Laureate Emerita of Santa Barbara  
<https://laureanne.net>  
<https://poets.org/poet/laure-anne-bosselaar>  
<https://fourwaybooks.com/site/laure-anne-bosselaar/>

**de la Guerra, Sheila**

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**From:** Jim Wright <jwright@westmont.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 4, 2022 5:46 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** BOS meeting tomorrow morning

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Board Members

I am writing in relation to the agenda item concerning the continued funding of the Human Trafficking Detective position, and to request funding for a second such detective.

I am an adjunct professor at Westmont College, and also volunteer with the Trafficking Task Force. I co-chair the Data Working Group for the Task Force.

The data seem compelling and cogent. Without adequate numbers of specifically trained specialist detectives, we will never make inroads into the insidious world of human trafficking. The progress in even understanding the scale of the problem during the past few years has been significant and that progress is undoubtedly going to be squandered without adequate investment in law enforcement.

While I appreciate the complexity of funding decisions and the legion of claims on County resources, I plead with you not to let this one go.

Respectfully,  
Professor Jim Wright  
**Co-Director**  
**Westmont in Cairo**