



de la Guerra, Sheila

Group 3

Public Comment-Community Resource & Public facilities

From: Kathy Kelly <kelly.kathleen805@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 10:10 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Tuesday, April 12- Departmental Budgets – Community Resources & Public Facilities – Library Budget

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: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

There must be no cuts to the Santa Barbara Public Library budget. One need only look at the multiple services the library provides to every sector of our community, including the least served among us, to understand why this is so. In addition to all that the Santa Barbara Library does for the public at large, it provides vital targeted support to many residents, including pre-school programs, multiple K-12 programs, adult literacy programs, and learning programs for seniors. In many cases the library is the only level of support for underserved populations. The Santa Barbara Library budget needs to be increased, not reduced. I will be closely watching how the Board allocates funding for this important community resource and vote accordingly in the next election.

Thank you,
Kathleen Kelly

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Leslie Dinaberg <leslie@lesliedinaberg.com>
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 2:36 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment for 4/12 Board of Supervisor's Meeting
Attachments: 4.11.22 Public Comment Letter to Board of Supervisors re_ Library.pdf

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.

Attached please find my public comment for tomorrow's Board of Supervisor's Meeting. Thank you for your help with distributing this to the board.

Leslie Dinaberg

Leslie Dinaberg
Writer | Editor
Leslie@LeslieDinaberg.com
Instagram: @LeslieSDinaberg
Facebook: facebook.com/leslie.dinaberg
Twitter: @lesliedinaberg
www.lesliedinaberg.com
805/452-3749

April 11, 2022

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Re: Funding for Santa Barbara Public Library
Via Email: bcob@countyofsb.org

I am writing to thank you for your ongoing financial support of Santa Barbara Public Library and request that you continue that support in the new fiscal year.

Our libraries are such an important unifying resource for the community. Eric Klinenberg, author of the book *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life*, published an essay on “Why Libraries Will Save the World (If We Let Them).”

He writes that, “More than 90 percent of Americans see their library as ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ important to their community. According to the Pew Research Center, in the past decade, ‘every other major institution (government, churches, banks, corporations) has fallen in public esteem except libraries, the military, and first responders.’”

Despite the many challenges of the past few years — both financial and logistical — the Santa Barbara Public Library has done an impressive job of providing an extensive array of services to the area. I truly can’t think of any public resource that provides more “bang for the buck” than our library. But we need county funding for important programs such as the Library on the Go outreach program, which takes the library services to underserved areas such as local parks and Housing Authority sites and provides essential resources such as WI-FI and job search assistance for our underserved homeless population; adult literacy programs; caregiver classes for Spanish speakers; and Student Success Cards, which support more than 10,000 Santa Barbara Unified School District students with library cards and services — the list goes on and on and on.

As Klinenberg's research suggests, "Every community needs a reliable gathering place. It should be open daily and fully accessible to everyone. It should be staffed by trained professionals who welcome people of all ages, ethnic groups, social classes, and abilities. It should be capacious, with flexible space that can be adapted to suit local needs and used during emergencies." We already have that space here in Santa Barbara. We just need County funds to continue to provide these wonderful services.

The notion of "Palaces for the People" originally comes from Andrew Carnegie, who helped to fund more than 2,500 libraries around the world — about 1,700 of which were in the United States. He called the greatest of them "palaces for the people."

While palace prices in Santa Barbara's real estate market are well beyond the public's reach, the funding of this critical community resource most certainly is not. I urge you to continue your support of the Santa Barbara Public Library.

Sincerely,

Leslie Dinaberg
Vice Chair, City of Santa Barbara Library Board
Leslie@LeslieDinaberg.com

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Margaret Smith Crocco <margaret.crocco@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 3:54 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Margaret Crocco
Subject: Public comment for County Board of Supervisors 4/12/22 meeting agenda

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 Board of Supervisors:

I write as a member of the Santa Barbara Public Library's Advisory Board with the purpose of asking the Board of Supervisors to increase funding for the Santa Barbara Public Library (SBPL). The goal of this increased funding would be to allow the Library to remain open seven days a week on a long-term basis, maintain the breadth of its programming, which serves many residents outside the city of Santa Barbara, and continue making its digital collections available to the large number of Goleta residents, along with Santa Barbara citizens, who now use these resources.

Enhanced county support for the SBPL is appropriate given several factors:

1. Over 11,000 Goleta residents have SBPL library cards while only about 250 Santa Barbara residents have Goleta library cards. SBPL receives no funding to support these Goleta-residing cardholders. Overall, SBPL serves more than three times as many customers as Goleta. However, due to the division of the county into zones for purposes of allocation of county funds, SBPL has not received funding proportionate to the number of cardholders that it serves as compared to the funding provided to other areas in the county.
2. Between 25 and 30% of the digital collections offered by SBPL are used by residents of Goleta. This translates to an annual cost of approximately \$100,000.
3. SBPL offers a wide variety of services and programs not replicated by other libraries throughout the county. For example, individuals who are tutored at SBPL under the auspices of the Adult Literacy program come from outside the city of Santa Barbara. Goleta has no such literacy program; many of those who use SBPL's Adult Literacy program as well as its struggling readers (OG Readers Program) come from outside the city of Santa Barbara. Another example of SBPL's wide scope of services is its High School graduation program, from which 4 individuals graduated recently – 1 each from Santa Maria, Goleta, Solvang, and Santa Barbara. Many other programs could be cited here that reflect SBPL's commitment to serving all county residents: no one is turned away.

In short, SBPL is a unique library in the county of Santa Barbara that serves the entire population of Santa Barbara County. No other library in the county offers the range of programs and resources found at SBPL. SBPL's recent departure from the Black Gold system reflects both its fiscal responsibility and its responsiveness to the needs of its cardholders. Should the Board of Supervisors cut its funding to SBPL, the ramifications of such a decision would reverberate across the entire county. Instead, I call upon the Board of Supervisors to increase funding to SBPL in order to allow it to sustain its impactful array of programs, to continue widespread access to its digital resources, and maintain its ability to remain open seven days a week in order to serve all its constituents in a more

robust fashion.

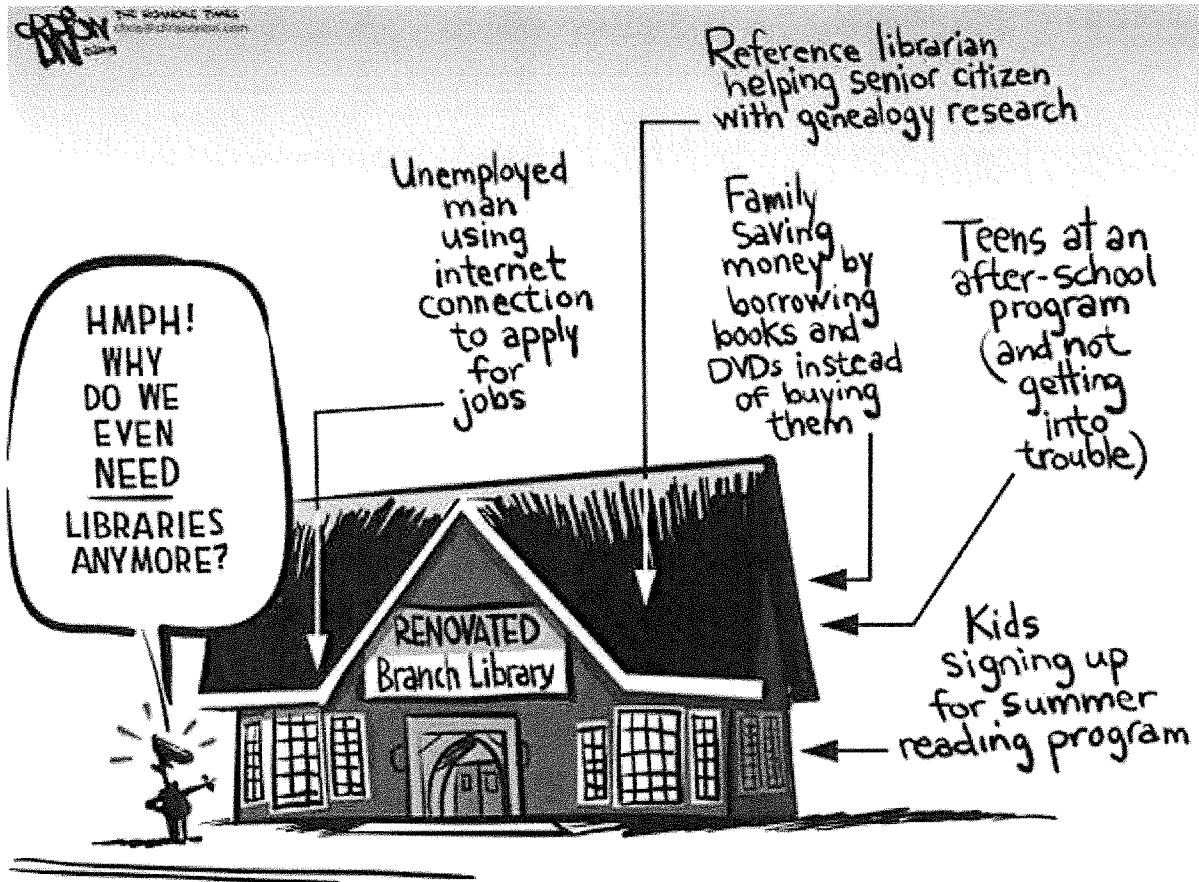
Thank you for your consideration.

Margaret S. Crocco
SB Public Library Advisory Board

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: jsterne@targeting.com
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 4:20 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: The Library Budget

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.



Jim

Jim Sterne jsterne@targeting.com
+1 805 403-4075

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Rose Maclean <maclean@classics.ucsb.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 4:23 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: SB 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.

Dear Board Members,

I am writing in support of the Santa Barbara Public Library, which is at risk of losing essential funding. I live in Goleta with my three children, who have benefited immensely from educational programming at the downtown branch. The downtown location has been our home base because of its first-rate toddler and pre-K classes, amazing book collection, and spacious play area where the children can socialize. We would be very disappointed to see such vital programming cut under the new budget proposal.

All the best,
Rose MacLean

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Rose MacLean
Associate Professor & Graduate Advisor
Department of Classics
UC Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Linda Love <linda.love1570@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 4:27 PM
To: sbcob
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.

Dear Supervisors,

Our downtown library and eastside branch are two of the most precious organizations in our fair city, the most democratic of our institutions. The funding for collections is woefully inadequate and needs the help of the County. Please do your best to increase the per capita funding. Our libraries bridge part of the gap between the rich and the poor in this community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda Love

1570 Alameda Padre Serra

Santa Barbara, CA 93103

805-963-6952

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Marsha Barr <ms.barr@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 4:31 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: LETTER IN SUPPORT OF SB PUBLIC 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.

TO: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors:

Das Williams, Gregg Hart, Joan Hartmann, Bob Nelson, and Steve Lavagnino

FR: Marsha J. Barr, Recording Secretary, Friends of the SB Public Library Board, and Former, now retired (June 2020),

Santa Barbara High School Teacher Librarian

RE: BUDGET WORKSHOP APRIL 12, 2022: ALLOCATE MORE COUNTY FUNDING TO THE SB PUBLIC LIBRARY

I am writing to you in support of our wonderful SB Public Library. Santa Barbara has always been a mecca for writers and publishers. Within our confines, writers such as Ross Macdonald (real name Kenneth Millar) and his wife Margaret Millar, Barnaby Conrad, Gayle Lynds, Brian Fagan, Fannie Flagg, Sue Grafton, T.C. Boyle, Melinda Palacio, Perie Longo, Sojourner Kincaid Rolle, and many, many more, lived here or currently do so. As a result, the Santa Barbara community is a reader's paradise. We have an outstanding downtown main public library, but to ensure all community members have access to its diverse educational activities and programs, I am advocating for you to provide more county money to this vital and life-changing resource. Public libraries are trusted and welcoming institutions. Santa Barbara's is too; it strengthens, cultivates, and inspires learning for each and every one of us in Santa Barbara.

Thank you.

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Nancy Segal <waterbird@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 4:42 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Library public 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.

I am not in favor of cutting library funds. The library is essential in helping so many kids in our county. Please continue to fund the libraries.

Thank you,
Nancy Segal

Sent from my iPhone

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Coleen Lund <calund11@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 4:51 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: April 12 Budget Hearing - Public Comment Submittal

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.

This email is to encourage the County Board of Supervisors to continue their support of the Santa Barbara Public Library. This library is beneficial to all members of the community, county wide. There are many programs offered by this library that make the community a better place, such as the reading intervention tutoring program (OG Tutors) for elementary school aged children, the Career Online High School GED program for adults who need assistance with completing their high school education, the Adult Education and Literacy tutoring program, the Stay and Play program designed for pre-school aged children and their caregivers, and more.

These programs are free and open to all members of the public and are bilingual as well. They reach people in our county community that might not receive the same services without those programs.

Thank you for your continued support of this valuable public service.

Coleen Lund

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Irene Falzone <sbcsli@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 6:21 PM
To: sbcob
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.

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of expanded funding to our county libraries.

For the past two years we have lived with uncertainty, disruption and strain on our social networks. As the grandmother of 5, the library was a lifeline for us. Weekly trips to pick up an activity packet or books that we had reserved gave us a little window of normality.

Throughout the years I have witnessed the library serve an increasing population who have limited resources. I see the grace they have with dealing with children, our seniors and our growing homeless population. Our libraries are community centers in the truest sense.

To preserve our democracy and to support education we must maintain and if possible, expand funding.

Sincerely

Irene Falzone