

Good evening, Mr. McConkey and Mr. Sophocleus,

As several library supporters and I have asked previously, please protect State Aid to Public Libraries at the level funding sent through by Governor O'Malley. The funding formula had been slated to increase over the past four years. The fact that it held steady has meant \$10 million less to the public libraries throughout Maryland. Public Libraries are not protected by Maintenance of Effort at the County level and some of us, including Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL), have received devastating and disproportionate cuts already.

Among other things, I'm very proud that AACPL has been a leader in developing our partnership with the Workforce Development Corporation of Anne Arundel County. We have Workforce Development staff in five libraries providing one-on-one resume-building and job search sessions. So far, between 1,600 and 2,000 people have been served by this program, which is the model for a new statewide effort by the State Division of Licensing and Labor Relations (DLLR).

On the Capital budget side of things, I learned recently that the Division of Legislative Services is making a recommendation for the capital library budget which would be just awful. First, they are recommending cuts. Second, they are recommending caps on the amount any library system can receive over the lifetime of capital support from the State. Third, they are recommending use of these funds only for small scale projects. These are horrendous ideas! The capital funds have helped Anne Arundel County Public Library leverage local funds for various projects. We would love to use some of the State Capital Project funds to help get the Annapolis Area Library and North County Area Library replacement projects off the ground. Both have been submitted to the County as approximately \$30 million projects. You can see how getting some State funding toward these projects would be a great incentive to County Government in moving the projects forward. In addition, we learned yesterday that we are recipients of a State grant to do a Library Facilities Master Plan. I expect us to identify projects that will take a decade or perhaps two decades to complete, from renovating and expanding existing libraries to modernize them, create spaces for individual and group study and for small and large meetings, tutoring, vending or cafe areas, and general improvement of computer areas, etc. State Capital Project grants will help us all along the way as we make the libraries of Anne Arundel County as useful and appealing and customer-friendly & welcoming as those in Prince Frederick, "Storyville" at the Rosedale Library in Baltimore County, the Rust Library in Leesburg, etc.

Please let me know if you'd like to discuss these State Operating and Capital Budget needs and the ways library services contribute to Education, Quality of Life, Economic Development, etc.

Best wishes & THANK YOU for all you do on behalf of the residents of Anne Arundel County and Maryland!!!

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