



CONTRA COSTA

COUNTY MAYORS CONFERENCE

September 9, 2016

To: Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors Internal Operations Committee

From: Contra Costa Mayors Conference

Subject: Report on discussion of Library Commission status

Some weeks ago County Library staff, on behalf of the Internal Operations Committee (IOC), requested that the Mayors Conference cities offer thoughts about the continuation and possible reorganization of the County Library Commission.

After consultation with various mayors and council members, the consensus opinion, based on the feedback we have received is:

- 1) That the Library Commission should continue to exist. Several cities expressed the opinion that it is an effective and valuable information-sharing forum.
- 2) That it is appropriate that each city appoint a member and an alternate in case the regular member is unable to attend. This provides continuity of information sharing which is one of the main values of the Commission. Whether one or both attend and who should sit at the table during discussion is an internal operations matter for the Commission to resolve for itself in its own procedures.
- 3) Should there be any issues that require a vote, that each city have only one vote and that the practice of counting city and county votes separately be discontinued as most decisions are taken by consensus and the past practice seems cumbersome and unnecessary.
- 4) The City of Richmond has indicated that they no longer wish to have either a regular or an ex-officio seat on the Commission. The other cities are comfortable with this position taken by Richmond. Should some future issue affect the Richmond library, appropriate outreach can be extended at that time.
- 5) There was no specific consensus as to the various "Special Representative" members, although it is understood that reducing the size of the body is a desirable goal in the abstract. At the same time, information sharing with the various "special constituencies"

is valuable and the County may best be able to judge the appropriateness of the various members in this category.

6) There was no consensus on the frequency of the meetings, some find the current schedule fine, and others thought less frequent meetings might be desirable.

7) There was sentiment expressed that it might be useful to provide childcare if any of the representatives have young children. We recognize this is not properly a structural issue, but the comment is passed on in the spirit of sharing the feedback we received.

In all other matters we defer to the IOC and the Board of Supervisors and thank the County for consulting us.

In general, we believe the climate surrounding County Library operations is very good and that the Commission has contributed to this positive feeling.

Prepared by:

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