

Lisa Driscoll

From: Jasun Molinelli <jasunmolinelliesq@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2021 3:41 PM
To: Lisa Driscoll
Subject: Public Comment for MXCAB Board Meeting of August 25, 2021

Dear Board Members

My name is Jasun Molinelli and I am a resident of Walnut Creek and also serve on the County's Library Commission for the City of Walnut Creek.

Thank you for all of the hard work you do for our County. I write regarding the MXCAB's process for finalizing priorities and recommendations to submit to the Board of Supervisors and the poll taken in support of that (the item on the agenda for today's Board meeting).

The poll results do not prioritize libraries in the top ten recommended funding priorities.

We often forget the importance of our libraries when considering budget priorities for a few reasons I can explain. Those that do not use the library (because they do not have to) tend to forget that it is more than just books! The trend over the last decade shows many adults often tend to stop their awareness and use of the libraries after their kids and teens have grown and gone away to work or college.

But the libraries in our communities serve as integral education and information centers for our youth, teen, parent, senior and underserved communities.

In my neighborhood, the libraries offer programs to all, including children and parents in the mornings, tweenagers and teens every day after school as a place where they congregate, and all other ages who all utilize the libraries resources for learning, fun, homework/school projects, adult education, computer and online access, and more.

In the underserved communities in our County, the library is an even GREATER resource for the residents. The library offers free access to information, voting, education, communication, computers and socializing to our underserved community members who quite often lack access to these resources otherwise.

The sad irony here is that without the access to the information and online communications/usage provided by the libraries, these polls have trouble reaching the underserved in their communities, so their voice is not heard. And it is unlikely the poll reflects any responses from the thousands of children and teens who use the library every day.

This is but a short description of the absolutely **vital** benefits of **all** the resources our libraries provide to us, and the importance of continued funding for these resources for our entire community. But please allow me to be the voice for the libraries and for so many of our County's residents who were unable to provide a response to the poll, and ask that this board consider reprioritizing our libraries as an essential priority to recommend to the Board of Supervisors in consideration of Measure X fund appropriations. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Jasun Molinelli

