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CITY OF BURIEN

July 5, 2011

Rachael Levine, President  
White Center Guild  
430 South 124<sup>th</sup> Street  
Burien, WA 98168

Dear Rachael,

In response to your letter dated June 13, 2011, please find attached a copy of a letter from the KCLS Board of Trustees in response to similar concerns expressed by the 11<sup>th</sup> & 34<sup>th</sup> District Legislators regarding potential action on library service in the North Highline area. This letter was intended to be copied to you and the groups listed below. I apologize for the delay in sending it to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria Hatcher".

Maria Hatcher  
Assistant to the Director  
Liaison to the Board of Trustees

c: Bill Ptacek, Director  
Burien City Council  
North Highline Unincorporated Area Council  
Joe McDermott, King County Council  
White Center Library Guild



June 22, 2011

Representative Joe Fitzgibbon  
34<sup>th</sup> District  
Washington State Legislature  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Dear Representative Fitzgibbon,

On behalf of the King County Library System Board of Trustees, I'd like to thank you and your colleagues for your recent letter regarding consolidation of the White Center and Boulevard Park Libraries in the North Highline district.

In April 2010, the Board of Trustees decided to postpone capital improvements in the North Highline area until the issue of annexation was resolved. In response to the community's concern over that decision, the Board directed KCLS to proceed with a Service Area Analysis to gather information on possible alternatives that could be pursued irrespective of annexation to the City of Seattle or the City of Burien.

KCLS collected and analyzed data and presented its key findings to a number of community groups, including the Burien City Manager, Burien City Council, White Center Library Guild and the North Highline Unincorporated Area Community Council. KCLS also gathered public input with an 18-minute telephone survey and accompanying Internet survey conducted by Godbe Research and those results were presented to the same groups.

Based on the data, KCLS staff presented its recommendation for library service in the North Highline area to the Board of Trustees at a public meeting held at the North Bend Library on May 24. Given the distance of the meeting from the affected community and requests from elected officials, the Board postponed taking action on the recommendation. At that same meeting, however, the Board directed staff to begin the process of site analysis in order to gather additional data for a more informed decision.

The Board is mindful of the needs of the voters who approved the library bond in 2004. As stewards of taxpayer dollars, it is our fiduciary responsibility to maximize the resources provided by the bond in order to provide the best possible library service for residents of the entire North Highline area. Please be assured that our actions will be guided by that responsibility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Eadie".

Richard Eadie, President  
King County Library System Board of Trustees

c: Representative Eileen Cody, 34<sup>th</sup> District  
Senator Sharon Nelson, 34<sup>th</sup> District  
Senator Margarita Prentice, 34<sup>th</sup> District  
Representative Bob Hasegawa, 11<sup>th</sup> District

Burien, Washington  
June 13, 2011

Board of Trustees  
King County Library System  
960 Newport Way NW  
Issaquah, WA 98027

Dear Members of the KCLS Board,

The members of the White Center Library Guild join in congratulating the King County Library System for having just been awarded the "Gale/Library Journal 2011 Library of the Year Award". This is a great honor and one that has come about because of the creative and hard work of library staff, the "Friends" groups, the taxpayers who consistently support KCLS in voting for capital and program funding, and especially the patrons who just "love" their libraries.

As we want to continue accessing the high quality of KCLS, we also want you to hear the voices of our particular communities, who are not ready to go forward with a consolidation of the White Center and Boulevard Park libraries. We feel that the effort of the KCLS to distribute their services should "equitably" meet the needs of our communities as well as those of the "highly educated, tech-savvy population", referenced by Director Ptacek in a June 8, Seattle Times article. This is exactly why we want every possible resource for the children and families who use our libraries, so they too can become "highly educated and tech-savvy".

Our Guild created a "Committee to Save Our Libraries" in an attempt to give voice to those using our libraries and whose voices are not expressed in surveys or in distant meetings. We are in the process of gathering petitions to provide an important snapshot of their concerns. Our petition makes three statements:

"We, the undersigned, wish to maintain the White Center and Boulevard Park libraries in their current locations.

Accessible libraries are crucial to the academic improvement of our children who struggle to overcome poverty.

We ask the KCLS Board of Trustees to delay any decision about the future of our libraries until after annexation is resolved."

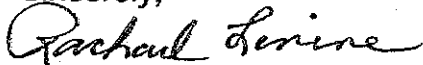
If you want additional inspiration for your library advocacy, I invite you to stand behind our make-shift signing station (a "retro" ironing board) and observe the individuals who are eager to give support with their signature. Illustrating the crucial aspect of access was the "address" of one middle-school student, who wrote "5 minute bike ride". At this point we have collected over 200 signatures from actual patrons.

In 2004, we campaigned on the street in White Center with a pink flyer produced by and carrying the logo of the KCLS. This flyer promised a new "10,000 sq. ft. White Center Library and upgrades to Boulevard Park Library as well. There was no mention of a consolidated library then, nor was there any mention of a consolidated library in the 2007 KCLS publication, "Strategic Planning Guidelines for Library Improvement Modifications". There was mention of a "potential annexation to Seattle". So if annexation is the issue and no creative way to solve the "proximity problem" has emerged, why not wait with your decision? What support, beyond that of the KCLS administration, do you have for making a decision at this time?

Because neither I, nor any member of our Guild has to my knowledge received direct communication from you in answer to our questions or concerns, we have turned for support to our elected officials. As the KCLS staff has always responded to our requests for information, I would like to know if there is a "a no-contact" policy with the Board.

You are the ultimate decision makers for KCLS services in communities, often remote to your everyday lives. It is my opinion that the greatest deference be given to the wishes of the residents, library patrons and elected officials of those communities.

Sincerely,



Rachael Levine, President  
White Center Library Guild

cc Bill Ptacek, Director  
Burien City Council  
North Highline Unincorporated Area Council  
31<sup>st</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> District Legislators  
Joe McDermott, King County Council  
White Center Library Guild