



DES MOINES
PUBLIC LIBRARY

December 18, 2009

The Honorable T.M. Franklin Cownie and
Richard A. Clark, City Manager
City Hall
400 Robert D. Ray Drive
Des Moines, IA 50309-1891

Dear Mayor Cownie and Mr. Clark:

Thank you for your letter dated December 10th. We are most pleased to answer your questions.

Please see the attached comparative chart that provides a comparison of constructing a branch in Merle Hay Mall as opposed to renovating and expanding the current Franklin Avenue Library facility. We are also enclosing a Library Communication memo distributed to the Library Board in October that outlines many of the reasons we voted unanimously, at that time, to pursue the expansion of the Franklin Avenue Library branch.

The Library Director and I have spoken with I-Jobs officials. The grant was submitted and scored as an expansion of the Franklin Avenue Library branch. The monies cannot be arbitrarily transferred. A copy of the email from I-Jobs officials is enclosed.

The Des Moines Public Library Foundation is a separately funded organization that exists to support the library but is not under the authority of the Library Board. The Foundation Board voted to encumber \$1,000,000 of their reserve funds to move the Franklin Avenue Library project forward. Over the next few months the Foundation expects to raise sufficient funds to allow them to remove encumbrances from their reserves.

The Library Board met on December 15th and based on the substantial input from a broad cross section of our constituency (via e-mail, phone conversation and public comments at the Board meeting), statistical and service analysis, and discussion among ourselves reaffirmed our October decision to move forward with the Franklin Avenue Library branch expansion.

Sincerely,

Susan Voss, President
Library Board of Trustees

Encl.: Comparative Chart; Library Communication; List of Meetings; I-Jobs Email; Memorandum of Understanding; Franklin Ave. Expansion Energy Chart; The Measure of a City (10-year Facilities Plan);

cc: City Council Members
Library Board of Trustees
Saul J. Amdursky, Library Director

www.desmoineslibrary.com

Central Library
1000 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50309
TEL 515.283.4152
FAX 515.237.1654

East Side Library
2559 Hubbell Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50317
TEL 515.283.4152

Forest Avenue Library
1326 Forest Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50314
TEL 515.283.4152

Franklin Avenue Library
5000 Franklin Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310
TEL 515.283.4152

North Side Library
3516-5th Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50313
TEL 515.283.4152

South Side Library
1111 Porter Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50315
TEL 515.283.4152