



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: August 3, 2010
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Assistant Director of Community Services/City Librarian
Subject: Presentation of Beverly Hills Public Library Renovation Feasibility Study and request for direction on renovation plan
Attachments:

INTRODUCTION

This report will review the findings of the Beverly Hills Public Library Renovation Feasibility Study which was completed in July, 2009 as well as conditions that have developed since the study was completed. Library staff seeks City Council's direction on moving forward with the renovation of the children's area of the Library as well as some staff desk consolidation and space planning improvements which will aid with streamlining service and minimizing the impact of reduced staffing levels.

DISCUSSION

In 2007 a comprehensive analysis of the library's existing programs, services and facilities was completed by Linda Demmers and Joan Frye Williams, experts in the field of Library facility development and planning. The plan laid out a detailed needs assessment for the Library which was designed to improve and expand upon the building's ability to facilitate the delivery of high quality library programs and services. Based on the findings of this report, it was determined that an architectural firm should be engaged to develop a plan that would address the shortcomings of the facility which hinder the ability to provide top quality Library service.

After a competitive process, the architectural firm of MDA Johnson Favaro was engaged in September 2008 to examine the findings of the Demmers-Williams plan and the design deficiencies of the current Library facility which impact the efficiency and service levels of the library operation. The study was completed in July 2009, and it identified three priority areas, the entry and Circulation services, the Children's Library, and the Teen area. After gathering feedback from staff, users, and the Friends of the Library, it is recommended that City Council consider moving forward more immediately with staff desk consolidation and space planning for the library with an eye toward efficiency, as

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well as the renovation of the Children's Library. Sufficient CIP funds for these activities were approved as part of the FY 2010-11 budget process.

The presentation at the study session will review the findings of the feasibility study as well as possible measures to improve library service and efficiency in the face of reduced staffing and increased library usage.

FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time. City Council budgeted \$4.5 million for fiscal year 10-11 for the renovation of the children's area and the space planning project. Should Council feel that these are the priority areas for work at the Library, the request to move forward with architectural services for these projects will be placed on the August 31st formal City Council agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council review the findings of the Library Renovation Feasibility Study and consider moving forward with the children's Library renovation, desk consolidation and space planning for the Library.


Nancy Hunt-Coffey
Approved By