

CHRIS TRUMBAUER
Councilman
Sixth District

September 30, 2014

M. Hall Worthington, Jr.
Chair, Board of Trustees
Anne Arundel County Library
5 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. ~~Worthington,~~ ^{Hall}

I am writing to convey my thoughts to you and the Board of Trustees on the location of the proposed new Annapolis Regional Library. Before I do, however, first let me thank you and the rest of the Board for your service as volunteers. I'd also like to extend my appreciation to the Board for actively engaging the community to be a part of deciding where the library will be constructed.

I understand that your role as a Board is to propose the best library design possible, and that your vision includes a 65,000 square foot design similar to the Miller Branch library in Howard County, which I toured with several members of the Board last year. I appreciate and expect that you would seek the biggest and best library design for Anne Arundel County – after all, that is your charge as a Board of Trustees.

I certainly understand this vision, but as a member of the County Council – the ultimate fiscal authority in budget matters – I must also look at this decision through another lens: what is feasible and practical.

As you are aware, getting funding for the new Annapolis library in the county budget was an arduous task, even though it was long overdue. County Executive Neuman and myself, along with other Councilmembers, fought hard to secure the funding in the FY2014 budget. The amount programmed in the budget is \$39.1 million, which includes design and land acquisition costs.

After attending the informative presentation the Board gave concerning the feasibility studies at Annapolis High School on September 4, I now understand that the costs to build a 65,000 square foot library on either of the two potential sights are prohibitive – well above the designated \$39.1M in the budget.

I was pleased to see that the consultant “reverse engineered” the library designs to meet the funding constraint. I understand from the presentation that a 48,000 square foot library could be constructed with surface parking at the existing site for well under the budgeted amount. Meanwhile, I read recently in the Annapolis

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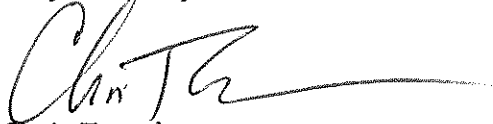
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Capital that the "Sommerville" site in Parole has been eliminated from consideration because the owner of that site is not interested in selling to the County.

All of this information has led me to conclude that the existing West Street location is the best candidate for the new library. A new library could be built there that, at 48,000 sq ft, would be the crown jewel of our library system – the largest in the county. The new library could be built under budget in a community that has expressed strong support and compelling reasons why the West Street location is superior. (These reasons include the proximity to the city's core, the walkability/bikability, the continued use by nearby schools and other organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club).

Again, I understand the Board's desire to build a true "regional" library, but I also must calibrate this vision with the available resources, site constraints and views of my constituents. I fully support the Library system's vision and I know that you will have opportunities in the future to build more libraries in other parts of the county. I look forward to continuing to support your vision throughout my time in office, and I ask you to consider the points I have made in this letter as you deliberate on your recommendation to the County Executive regarding the site of the new Annapolis Library.

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Trumbauer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Trumbauer
Councilmember, District 6

cc: Laura Neuman, County Executive
Karen Cook, Chief Administrative Officer
Skip Auld, Chief Executive Officer, Anne Arundel County Public Libraries
Chris Phipps, Director, Department of Public Works