
Library Commission

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April 18, 2022

The Honorable Mayor of Redondo Beach
The Honorable Redondo Beach City Council
Redondo Beach Council Chambers
415 Diamond Street
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Subject: FY2022-23: Request for funding to restore hours and supplement the collection budget

Dear Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers:

This is the third letter to this esteemed body since December. The first letter dated 12/6/21 requested adding open+access to the strategic plan, which allows the North Branch to provide additional open hours at a lower cost than staffed open hours. open+access was included in the City's strategic plan and will be brought back to Council on 6/7/22. The second letter dated 2/8/22 requested additional 2021-22 funding for the libraries' physical and digital collections (similar to what has been provided in prior fiscal years during the annual budget process). This letter requests increased funding to restore some open hours and to supplement the collection and budget for FY 2022-23 and announces support for the Redondo Beach Public Library going fine free.

The Library Commission recommends restoring the open staffed hours that were cut at both the Main Library and the North Branch during the FY 2020-21 budget. The hours of the Main Library were reduced by 16 hours per week and the hours of the North Branch were reduced by 8 hours per week due to the effect of COVID-19 on the City budget. As things return to normal, the Library Commission requests that the Library get closer to pre-COVID accessibility in the coming fiscal year. For reference, the Manhattan Beach Library restored its hours to pre-COVID levels effective 2/14/22.

Restoration of 8 hours at the North Branch Library would cost approximately \$30,000 in part-time personnel, while restoration of 8 hours (in order to restore morning service on Mondays and Fridays) at the Main Library would cost approximately \$77,000 in part-time personnel. These hours could be restored while keeping all full-time staff on one shift. Full restoration of pre-COVID hours at the Main Library would cost an additional \$77,000 in part-time personnel and would require two work shifts and the restoration of a full-time clerk position, which remains frozen.

Since 2018, the Library Commission has requested an additional allocation of \$50,000 for the Library's collection budget. An amount of \$43,000 was permanently deducted from the FY2010-11 collection budget to cover higher maintenance costs for SirsiDynix. Since that time, the Library has added digital products to the collection and outsourced the cataloging and processing of books, adding to the cost of each title. The Commission requests that \$50,000 be added to the collection budget on a permanent basis. The attached midyear budget letter from the Library Commission details current collection needs.

The Library Commission would also like to voice support for the Redondo Beach Public Library system going fine-free to support equitable access to the Library.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Beauchamp', with a long, flowing horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrew Beauchamp
Chair
Redondo Beach Library Commission

Attachment:

Library Commission December 2021 Strategic Planning Letter

Library Commission February 2022 Midyear Budget Letter