

Reply to Common Council File No. 040637  
From DOA-Budget and Management Division

September 9, 2004

Ref: 04013

Common Council File No. 040637 is a resolution authorizing the Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) to enter into three agreements with the Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) including the Bibliographic Database, Delivery Services and Member Agreements.

In 2005, the Bibliographic Database agreement will reimburse MPL \$418,972 for the system-wide materials cataloging services it provides for all MCFLS members. This amount offsets 85% of the cost of technical services staff who perform these duties. The \$55,654 Delivery Services agreement offsets MPL's cost to fund a delivery driver who circulates materials amongst the 27 system libraries.

Perhaps the most important agreement between MPL and MCFLS is the Member Agreement. This contract specifies the terms of system membership and is statutorily required for the system to receive state aid. It requires that every library provide the same service to every county resident that it provides its own patrons and ensures seamless county-wide service with its shared CountyCat system, delivery, cataloging and reciprocal borrowing arrangements. For these benefits, MPL reimburses MCFLS about \$50,000 annually for postage and supply costs.

One significant change in the 2005-2007 Member Agreement is that MCFLS no longer requires reciprocal borrowing payments between member libraries as a condition of membership. In the past, Milwaukee has made a payment of around \$1million each year for its net borrowing activity. These payments will now be individually negotiated between member libraries.

**RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT COMMON COUNCIL FILE NO. 040637  
AUTHORIZING THE MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY TO ENTER INTO  
VARIOUS AGREEMENTS WITH THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY  
FEDERATED LIBRARY SYSTEM.**

  
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