

Lee, Chris

From: Dimitrijevic, Marina
Sent: Thursday, October 6, 2022 11:47 AM
To: Lee, Chris
Subject: Fwd: 2023 Concerns on Budget Cuts for 12 Milwaukee Libraries and Temporarily Closing King Library

~Marina

You may use our Click for Action online system to report city service requests: https://iframe.publicstuff.com/#?client_id=1000167

Sign up for my Aldermanic District 14 monthly e-newsletter and other updates at <https://city.milwaukee.gov/enotify>



Marina Dimitrijevic
Alderwoman | 14th District

Chairwoman, Finance and Personnel
Committee

She/Her/Hers/Ella

Hablo Español

p: [\(414\) 286-3769](tel:(414)286-3769)

e: marina@milwaukee.gov

[200 E Wells Street, Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202](https://www.milwaukee.gov/district14)

[milwaukee.gov/district14](https://www.milwaukee.gov/district14)

Begin forwarded message:

From: Community Huddle <info@communityhuddle.org>
Date: October 6, 2022 at 11:39:18 AM CDT
To: "Dimitrijevic, Marina" <Marina@milwaukee.gov>, "Spiker, Scott" <Scott.Spiker@milwaukee.gov>, "Coggs, Milele" <mcoggs@milwaukee.gov>, "Murphy,

Michael (Alderman)" <mmurph@milwaukee.gov>, JoCasta.Zammaripa@milwaukee.gov
Subject: 2023 Concerns on Budget Cuts for 12 Milwaukee Libraries and Temporarily Closing King Library

Ald. Marina Dimitrijevic
Chair, Finance and Personnel Committee
Milwaukee Common Council

October 6, 2023

Dear Chair Ald. Dimitrijevic and Members of the Finance and Personnel Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Community Huddle and our concern for the cuts to 12 of our libraries in the 2023 Budget, particularly the decision in the budget to temporarily close the Dr. Martin Luther King Library which is less than one mile from Community Huddle's office.

Our libraries are gateways to knowledge and culture, and they play a fundamental role in our society. Our libraries are very helpful and economical too. They make it easier for people to get access to books and sources of information for various purposes. The resources and services our libraries offer create opportunities for learning, support literacy and education, and help shape the new ideas and perspectives that are central to a creative and innovative society.

Dr. King Library is a community hub and a pillar of hope for our community. Our organization has hosted back to school & nonpartisan voter registration drives at the King Library on several occasions. We prefer Dr. King Library as they provide community meeting space, facilitate access to computers and the internet, public access to critical information needed for community building, facilitate community history and cultural projects, language instruction for immigrants and welcoming public spaces for the poor, the homeless and young people.

We must also address mass incarceration and how black and brown people are being disproportionately locked up with the correlation between incarceration and low literacy. Over 70% of inmates in America's prisons cannot read above a fourth grade level. Additional Statistics on Low Early Literacy Skills and Incarceration: According to the National Assessment of Adult Literacy, 2/3 of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of fourth grade will end up in jail. One of the most important experiences that libraries provide is an opportunity to develop a love of books and reading, and our public libraries play a key role in promoting literacy and reading. Diverse storytimes, access to books, art activities, family areas with opportunities to role play, build and discover — all of these things foster brain development and early literacy and math skills.

I'm not naive that the city's costs are rising while shared revenue remains flat or declines but I appeal to you and pray you would reconsider budget priorities as it pertains to the decision to temporarily close the Dr. King Library, and also reconsider the budget cuts to 12 of our libraries in our city.

I am hopeful that under your leadership Milwaukee's budget will reflect an inclusive vision of equity, safety and prosperity for all Milwaukeeans, especially for our city's most poor, vulnerable, and disenfranchised citizens.

Thank you for listening and for your leadership on the Finance and Personnel Committee and the Milwaukee Common Council.

--

In service,



Min. Byron G. Marshall, Jr.

Executive Director & Founder

Community Huddle

2745 N. Martin Luther King Dr.

2nd Floor

Milwaukee, WI 53212

Office: (414) 286-4547 | Cell: (414) 731-9416

Website: www.communityhuddle.org

Email: info@communityhuddle.org



Χομμυνιτυ Ηυδδλε ισ α νον-προφιτ οργανιζατιον ωορκινγ το προμοτε χιπιχ ενγαγεμεντ τηρουγη χομμυνιτυ ουτρεαχη ανδ αωαρενεσσ, ανδ αδποχατινγ φορ εθυιτυ ανδ πεαχε λοχαλλψ ανδ αβροαδ. Χομμυνιτυ Ηυδδλε ενπισιονσ α χιπιχαλλψ ενγαγεδ χομμυνιτυ δ επωτεδ το εθυιτυ ανδ πεαχε.

The information contained in this electronic message and any attachments to this message are intended only for the individual(s) addressed in the message and may contain proprietary and confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender and destroy this message.