

From: [Ike Leggett](#)

To: [Peggy Dennis](#)

Sent: Thursday, June 02, 2011 4:26 PM

Subject: RE: Library funding

Dear Ms. Dennis:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter regarding library services in Montgomery County.

I am very grateful for the work Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) has done for the community despite the difficult cuts they have had to endure. I have said in many letters and public forums this year that I would restore funding to library services when the fiscal situation allows. The conclusion of the Maryland General Assembly session in Annapolis this April provided me an opportunity to do exactly that. I recommended an amendment to increase the Recommended MCPL FY12 Operating Budget by \$1.46 million above what I proposed on March 15 of this year to restore \$1 million in library materials funding and four Librarian positions, including one at the Twinbrook branch. The County Council recently agreed with my recommendations for MCPL, and found a way to restore \$0.87 million in additional funding to restore more positions, bringing MCPL's funding levels for FY12 much closer to FY11, and maintaining information staff service levels at all branches.

I do understand the very substantial cuts to the library system that have been made to date have decreased access to services for customers with a diversity of needs and resources at their disposal. I recognize the cuts have negatively impacted users needing more current and up-to-date information and ideas, as well as access to computers and the internet, and library programming. While I wish I could have completely spared the library system any further cuts, I simply was not in a position to do so on March 15. I did, however, make as judicious a set of reductions as I could, preserving library hours, library branches, and library materials from further cuts in FY12. In partnership with the Council, we have minimized the number of filled staff positions that will be abolished in MCPL to meet the FY12 budgetary limits.

I certainly hope our fiscal condition will continue to improve, and that we can progress further towards restoring the library materials budget, increasing access to services through restoring hours, more adequately staffing existing and renovated/new facilities, and restoring the system's capacity to do more homework help, information services assistance to customers, public programming and outreach.

Sincerely,

Isiah Leggett

County Executive