



Memorandum

TO: Mayor & City Council

FROM: Mayor Chuck Reed
Vice Mayor Madison Nguyen
Councilmember Rose Herrera
Councilmember Sam Liccardo
Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio

SUBJECT: Library Parcel Tax

DATE: February 28, 2014

Approved

Date

2/28/14

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution of the City Council placing the renewal of the existing voter-approved funding for San José libraries on the June 3, 2014 ballot.

BACKGROUND

The parcel tax that pays for 22 percent of the library budget is expiring next year. On February 10, 2014, the City Council reviewed telephone survey data that showed solid community support of 84 percent for renewing this funding.

The Library Parcel Tax provides \$8 million annually for books and research materials, library hours and services, award-winning librarians, and computer infrastructure at 23 locations throughout the city. Last year, patrons of all ages made 5.84 million visits to San José public libraries.

The parcel tax is critical to continue providing excellent programs and services to our residents. A dedicated group of community volunteers has stepped forward and is working to get it passed. They deserve our support, and the City Council should put the library measure on the ballot for June 3, 2014.