

SENT TO COUNCIL:

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City Manager's Office

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Debra Figone

SUBJECT: RETIREMENT OF JANE LIGHT

DATE: 11-29-11

INFORMATION

This memorandum is to inform you that City Librarian Jane Light has notified me of her intent to retire at the end of March.

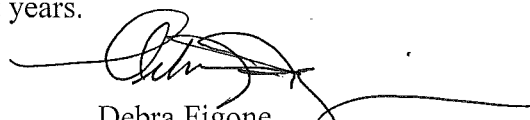
Jane has demonstrated great leadership as she directed San José's library system for nearly 15 years. Please see the attached letter of intent to retire in which Jane conveys, from her perspective, the library system's triumphs and recognitions. As noted in her letter, Jane has made significant improvements in the quality of library services and connecting community to these services. During this period of tremendous change for libraries, Jane spearheaded the innovative collaboration between the City of San José and San José State University (SJSU) with the joint Martin Luther King, Jr. Library which receives more than two million visitors each year. She was also instrumental in the November 2000 passage of the Branch Library Bond Measure which allotted \$212 million over 10 years for construction of six new and 14 expanded branch libraries in San José.

It is also worth noting that the Library continues to receive national accolades for its pioneering ways and excellent customer service including most recently the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services' National Medal, the nation's highest honor for museums and libraries. Jane has also embraced technology, making it easier for library patrons to access information and publications online through the Library's website as well as implementing self-service checkouts that now account for 95% of all checkouts.

What I value most about Jane is her absolute professionalism, creativity, and commitment to the ideals of public libraries in providing educational, informational and recreational services to the community. She has also been a strong presence on the Senior Staff team, and I have valued her contributions in helping lead the organization. It was back in 1997, when I was Assistant City Manager, I was fortunate to assist in hiring Jane as City Librarian with the then-City Manager. Jane has contributed greatly to the Library's achievements and she will be greatly missed.

I have known that Jane's retirement was on the horizon, and have been able to plan accordingly for this announcement. A search effort will begin right away to find the next leader for San José's library system.

While this news is a loss for San José, Jane's legacy with our libraries will remain. Please join me in wishing Jane the best in her retirement years.


Debra Figone
City Manager



November 16, 2011

Debra Figone
Office of the City Manager
San José City Hall
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95112

Dear Deb,

As you know, I am planning to retire on March 30, 2012. I am giving you formal notice now of my intent so that you are able to begin recruiting for a new City Librarian.

San José's library system has undergone tremendous change since 1997 when I started. I am proud to have been able to provide leadership for the talented departmental and City staff and many volunteers. Together, we have dramatically improved our library services and facilities.

Among the highlights of my tenure are:

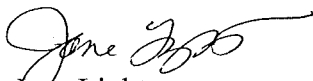
- Use of libraries has tripled; as many people visited San José libraries last fiscal year as attended the home games of all the professional sports teams in the Bay Area!
- The successful planning, opening and operation of the King Library, still the only joint public university and main city library in the United States.
- The passage of the \$212M library branch bond measure in 2000 and a successful partnership with the Department of Public Works to build beautiful, functional libraries.
- Continuously improving library services by focusing on customer service, convenience and comfort.
- Residents have consistently given the Library Department their highest rating in resident surveys.

Along the way, San José's library system has become nationally recognized as a leader in providing 21st Century library services. In 2006, the library received the prestigious national "Library of the Year" award and it has just been named the first library system in California to receive the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services' National Medal. In spite of the funding reductions that the library, like other departments, has experienced and the difficult budget environment in which the City now operates, I will leave my position

next Spring knowing that the San José Public Library is filling a vitally important role in our community and is well positioned to continue doing so.

I greatly appreciate the many opportunities and consistent support that the Mayor and Council, the City's Senior Staff, the library department staff, and you personally have provided me throughout my years as City Librarian.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jane Light".

Jane Light
City Librarian