From: Gay Cook
To: dencc - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Hearing on Council Bill 22-0873
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Attachments: Statement in Support of CB 22-0873.docx

To: Members of the Denver City Council

Monday, August 22, 2022

My name is Gay Cook. I live in the Hilltop neighborhood of Council District 5. I am a Trustee and past board chair of the Denver Public Library Friends Foundation, and I served on the Denver Public Library Sustainability Task Force.

I want to thank you for holding a public hearing tonight on Council Bill 22-0873, establishing a new dedicated property tax to fund the Denver Public Library, subject to the approval of the voters. I am submitting this written testimony in support of that measure.

My husband, Dr. Andrew Czopek, and I have resided in Denver for more than 40 years. My career has included being a former Managing Editor of The Denver Post, a former Vice President of Metro State, the first Managing Director of the Ludeman Family Center for Women's Health Research at the University of Colorado—Anschutz Medical Campus, and former Vice President and Corporate Officer of The Colorado Trust. Over those years, I have seen Denver grow and change, and have witnessed the key role the Denver Public Library plays in our city, how it enriches and changes peoples' lives.

To accommodate growth and change, Denver voters repeatedly have stepped up to invest in important aspects of our community. We have approved dedicated funding streams to support transportation, arts and culture, mental health, parks, numerous education initiatives from preschool through higher education, and bond measures to modernize and strengthen our city's infrastructure.

However, our investment in the Denver Public Library has not kept pace with the demands of a growing, changing Denver. Referring Council Bill 22-0873 to the voters is our chance to change that.
New dedicated funding would help:

- Enhance programs and services for children, youth, older adults, communities of color, and vulnerable groups like immigrants and refugees.
- Return library branches from reduced hours to normal schedules and allow libraries to be open on nights and weekends.
- Ensure the library has the necessary technology to support patrons who lack internet access.
- Expand resources for those in the job market and help connect people to

potential employers in the community.
- Expand and diversify the collection of books, media, and other popular items to reduce wait times.
- Increase pay for librarians and staff making below-market wages.

I urge your support of Council Bill 22-0873, so we can make the case to Denver voters that an additional investment in the library will enable it to better serve our city and ensure we have a world-class library that a world class city needs and deserves. Thank You!

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