

Save Our Escondido Library Coalition

December 1, 2018

Mayor-Elect Paul McNamara
City of Escondido
201 N. Broadway
Escondido, CA 92025

Dear Mayor-Elect McNamara,

We are so happy to be able to congratulate you on your election as our new Mayor. Your success as Mayor is success for Escondido. The *Save our Escondido Library Coalition* is a coalition of the Escondido Democratic Club, Escondido Neighbors United, Together We Will, Escondido Indivisible, and hundreds of residents who fought hard to protect our library from the devastating actions of the former Mayor and city council majority.

We know, as a new leader, there is a lot to do. We agree that it will take time to 'right the ship'.

However, there is a timeline associated with the library. We are writing today to request Council give the following direction to staff in order to get us on a path to restoring our library to public control.

We respectfully request that you direct staff to:

1. Hold a status update/workshop soon to report to the City Council and hear from the public regarding options and alternatives to restore the management of the public library to the Board of Trustees or other public entity such as a dedicated Library District.
2. Enter into a settlement on the litigation to reduce/eliminate the City from further liability and judgment. Please note that the next settlement conference is February 25, 2019. Settlement would allow the city to avoid the expense of a trial which is scheduled for May 17, 2019.

As a reminder, under the Council majority's direction last year, Escondido's legal resources were expended to justify Council's action and the case is on-going. The judge has delayed the trial date to see if the new leadership may want to give different direction to its attorneys. We know that staff has had a very different view of

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this and we offer the declaration of Jack McGrory, former City Manager of San Diego, as just one example of informed, alternative views. It is attached.

Further, if one or more of the current Board of Trustees has changed their position on their responsibility to operate the library, we hope you will invite them to resign so that you can appoint new members who are ready to assume public control. We can recommend many interested, motivated, and capable candidates.

There is a lot more to be shared about this situation but, for now, we hope that you will work with Council members to identify options for a better library resolution. We hope by talking and working together we can settle this controversy, avoid ever more costly and contentious legal action, and move forward on a path together as a community.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Save our Library Coalition Organizing Team,

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