

February 5, 2019

RE: Ordinance Amendment to Designate the City Council as the Library Board of Trustees, New Ordinance to Establish a Library Advisory Commission, Resolution to Establish By-Laws for the Library Advisory Commission, and Appointments to the Library Advisory Commission

Mayor Perotte and Councilmembers,

I write as a community leader and local representative to express my concern with recommendations before you on February 5th regarding the Goleta Library System. Libraries are a crucial resource for communities across our nation, serving as valuable public spaces for the growth of knowledge, provision of social services, and building of community.

The County's Library agreement with the City provides over \$100,000 in funding from Isla Vista. However, Isla Vistans do not – and have never had – a public library branch in our community. I have had promising conversations with City staff regarding the prospects of providing library services in new and innovative ways in Isla Vista, and continue to be optimistic about the partnerships our communities can forge under the City of Goleta's newly created system. However, I believe the library trustees board should retain its authority to set the budget and policies for the Goleta library system. Without this ability, the board will be advisory by nature, and will take on a role much different from that of what I believe was intended. Retaining the current authority over spending will foster more meaningful participation and accountability to our communities.

I see no issue with the the Council making changes as necessary to ensure that the City Manager retains authority over personnel decisions, and urge the Council to consider a compromise position that retains Board's authority regarding budget and policy.

Thank you to the Mayor and Council for your commitment to quality library services.

Sincerely,

Spencer Brandt
President, Isla Vista Community Services District