



Mayor Tarter and Members of the City Council
City of Falls Church
Falls Church, Va. 22046

June 18, 2017

Dear Mayor Tarter and Members of Council:

At its June 15 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Village Preservation and Improvement Society (VPIS) voted to communicate to you the Board's strong support for prompt implementation of the project to upgrade and expand the Mary Riley Styles Public Library recently approved by Falls Church City voters at referendum.

As we indicated in our letter to you on this topic in early April, VPIS views the Library as a critical institution supporting all elements of the Falls Church community. In addition, VPIS works closely with the Library to implement programs and projects, such as our recent partnership to make new technology for improving heating and cooling efficiency available to Falls Church residents. VPIS also works closely with the Library to expand and strengthen the archive of Falls Church history.

We recognize that the City is working to address a number of infrastructure needs, including the George Mason proposal. Although that project may be expensive, in our view that is not a reason to delay progress on a project of much more modest cost which a large portion of the City's population uses, and which the population voted to support a bond issue to fund construction. The Library project

This included in the Capital Improvement Plan adopted by the Planning Commission and we urge you to implement the project as proposed and not delay this important work. The project deserves your support for several reasons:

1. **Well-conceived:** The project is the result of an extensive and careful planning process that focuses limited resources on the most critical needs of the Library, including both renovation of existing space and modest expansion.
2. **Urgent:** The renovation and expansion provided for the project is urgent. The renovation will address important upgrades to mechanical and electrical systems and replacement of ageing elevators and inadequate restrooms. The expansion

will provide roughly 6,000 additional square feet to support steadily growing use of the Library programs and services.

- 3. Strong Public Support:** The public provided a strong endorsement of the Library project in approving the referendum on the project late last year.

Again, thank you for your continued support for the Library improvement project.

Sincerely,

Mark Gross
President

cc: City Manager
Library Director
Library Board of Trustees
Planning Commission