February 6, 2020

City Of Falls Church
Mayor Tarter and Council Members
City Hall
300 Park Avenue
City of Falls Church, Virginia 22046

Dear Mayor Tarter and Council Members:

The Village Preservation and Improvement Society (VPIS) Board of Directors strongly encourages you to provide the funding needed to meet the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the renovation and expansion of the Mary Riley Styles Public Library and proceed to construction of this critical project.

After a careful and extensive planning and public engagement process, the City determined that the Library needed to be renovated and expanded if it is to continue to meet the needs of the rapidly growing Falls Church community. In 2016, voters approved a referendum by a wide margin to provide for renovation of the existing building and a badly needed 6,600 square foot addition.

The project will address critical systems upgrades to the existing building, including HVAC, elevator, and bathrooms, as well as bring the building into full ADA compliance. Other improvements include dramatic expansion of the space for children and teens and new public meeting and workspaces. VPIS especially supports the plan to upgrade the Local History Room as this will improve understanding of the origins and experiences of the Falls Church community.

As you know, steady annual increases in the regional cost of labor and materials have increased construction costs beyond initial estimates. In addition, the project includes improvements that were not part of the initial budget as well as design elements needed to comply with evolving standards (e.g.; new LEED design standards). Although the cost of construction has increased over the years, the cost of financing the project will be substantially less than estimated at the time of the referendum, generating a significant savings somewhat offsetting construction cost increases.

We are convinced of the need for the project and have confidence in the planning process and the current design. We look forward to working with you to complete this critical project for Falls Church.

Sincerely,

Lisa Varouxis
President

cc. Library Board
Planning Commission
City Manager