

April 11, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Select Committee on the Library Levy
From: Asha Venkataraman, Council Central Staff
Subject: Issue Identification II for CB 119491: 2019 “Libraries for All” Levy Renewal

On April 11, the Select Committee on the Library Levy (“Select Committee”) will discuss potential amendments that may be proposed to [Council Bill \(CB\) 119491](#), the 2019 “Libraries for All” Levy Renewal ordinance. The Select Committee met previously to discuss issues with the proposed legislation and, as of this point, there are no outstanding issues of which Central Staff are aware. This memo is therefore focused exclusively on the description of levy revisions that Councilmembers have expressed an interest in exploring. In considering these options, please note that the Library Board of Trustees (“Board”) has exclusive control over Library expenditures, so any change in allocations for a specific purpose is subject to Board approval.

Background

The Library has proposed renewal of the 2012 levy, collecting \$213.3 million over 2020-2026. This amount includes \$167.4 million to retain the core services funded by the 2012 levy (including adjustments for inflation resulting in a \$44.8 million increase from the 2012 \$122.6 million levy) and an additional \$45.9 million to enhance and improve services through further investment.

During the April 8 Issue Identification session, the Select Committee discussed funding sources for Library capital projects, the proposed fine-free policy, and the rising cost of e-materials. It also considered potential changes to the levy, including adding air conditioning and elevators to the three branches scheduled for seismic retrofits and opening a non-traditional library space in the new Denny substation. Lastly, the Select Committee had a preliminary discussion about amendments of interest to Councilmembers, including early childhood education and adding more open hours systemwide.

Potential Amendments

1. Funding educational programming for children and youth (Councilmember González)

As previously discussed at the Select Committee meeting on April 8, the Library currently provides programming targeted to children birth to three years of age. These programs include:

- Baby Story Time,
- English and Bilingual Kaleidoscope Play and Learn,
- Pre-School Story Time,
- Toddler Story Time,

- World Language Story Time, and
- Other story time programs

Annual patron attendance is approximately 107,000 patrons at about 2,900 events. The Seattle Public Library Foundation funds a portion of this programming at a cost of \$339,850 in 2019.

In addition, the Library provides additional educational programming for a Student Success Program, which supports students from pre-school to high school. The Library also employs a formal learning librarian to support these programs. The Seattle Public Library Foundation provides the majority of the financial support for these programs at a cost of \$156,750 in 2019.

Programs include:

Table 1: Student Success Program

Program	Target Age or Grade	Description
Learning Buddies	K-3; 14-16	Teens and children reading and playing math games together
Homework Help	5-18	Drop in service to help students with homework and gain academic skills
Middle School	12-14	Develop career, college, and life skills
Team Read	Second & Third Grade	Avoiding summer reading loss
Teen Service Learning	14-18	Providing leadership opportunities through project-based youth-led service learning

This potential amendment would replace Seattle Public Library Foundation support for both sets of programs with levy funds at the cost described in Table 2.

Table 2: Costs to Maintain Educational Programming

Purpose	Cost Over Levy Period	Average Annual Cost	Annual Cost to Average Median Household	Monthly Cost to Average Median Household
Maintaining 0-3 programming with levy funds	\$2,791,605	\$398,001	\$1.12	\$0.09
Maintaining Student Success programming with levy funds	\$1,435,670	\$205,096	\$0.58	\$0.05

2. Adding More Hours Systemwide (Councilmember O'Brien)

As discussed at the April 8 Select Committee meeting, in proposing the 2019 levy, the Library considered how to respond to the community's interest in seeing the Library restored to its pre-recession hours of operation and possibly adding further open hours. The Library determined that it could open all branch libraries for another hour on Sundays without any additional levy cost, increasing the total system hours open by 26 hours per week. The Library looked at three further options for extending hours. Two are reflected in the Mayor's Levy package: (1) to open on Fridays four libraries (Delridge, Green Lake, Wallingford, and New Holly) which are currently only open six days a week, an additional 28 open hours per week, for \$1.8 million; and (2) to open three libraries (High Point, Chinatown-International District, and South Park) for a longer time in the mornings and evenings, an additional 42 hours per week, for \$4.0 million.

The weekly hours of operation since 2010 for the Library system (all locations) are outlined in Table 3, along with the options proposed in the levy package. Current library branch hours and proposed hours for 2020 without additional levy-funded options are in Attachment A.

Table 3: Library System Historical Hours Open and Proposals for Increasing Hours

Time Period	Incremental Hours Change	Cumulative Total Hours Open Per Week	Reason for Change in Funding Support
Pre-recession	N/A	1,437	N/A
2010	-200	1,237	Recession financial constraints
2013	+102	1,349	Available 2012 Levy funds
2016	+38	1,377	Available 2012 Levy funds
Proposed levy package additions			
One more Sunday hour at all branches	+26	1,403	Available 2012 levy funds
Open four branches on Fridays	+28	1,431	Proposed 2019 levy package funds
AM/PM hours to three branches	+42	1,473	Proposed 2019 levy package funds

The last option the Library analyzed that was not included in the Mayor's proposal would add another open evening hour Monday through Thursday system-wide, for an additional four hours per week at the Central Library and each of the 26 branches, totaling 108 hours per week. This would mean 1,581 open hours per week system-wide. Levy costs to add these hours starting June 1, 2020 are \$6.2 million over the life of the levy, at an average annual cost of \$866,000. The average annual cost to an average median household is \$2.47, or \$0.21 per month. The \$6.2 million consists of \$3.84 million for the Central Library, \$1.9 million for the

branch libraries, and \$572,000 for a floating custodian to respond to needs across all additional open hours.

3. Feasibility Study for Co-locating Child Care Space at Libraries (Councilmember Mosqueda)

Currently, no Library locations are co-located with child care facilities. It may be possible to add child care spaces to Library locations, either through redevelopment or further build out. The feasibility study could include:

- Specific requirements of child care center licensing;
- Site-specific challenges such as outdoor space requirements, bathrooms in classrooms, sufficient egress exits, and needed square footage;
- Whether to cover capital or operational costs with levy funding;
- Estimated capital and potential operational costs; and
- Estimated operational costs, including food service, administrative space for staff, storage space.

Councilmember Mosqueda, the Library, and the Executive are currently gathering more information about the cost of a feasibility study to add child care space to the Central Library and to all branches, which will be discussed a future Select Committee Meeting.

4. Providing Additional Security Officers (Councilmember Mosqueda)

Currently, the Library employs 19 security officers. Adding additional security officers would help the Library to address the increasing operational challenges associated with its position as an open space for the unsheltered population while ensuring the Library is accessible to all members of the public. As currently staffed, prompt security responses to branch libraries can be delayed. The Library describes its strategies for interactions between security officers and patrons as a person-centered approach to build relationships.

Adding two officers would allow some increased capacity for training, more staffing flexibility, and the ability to provide more prompt responses to branches. It would also meet the recommendations from a 2010 study on library security. The cost of one security officer in 2019 is \$60,792. Levy costs to add two officers are \$1,263,540 over the life of the levy, at an average annual cost of \$180,506. The average annual cost to an average median household is \$0.51, or \$0.04 per month.

5. Expanding the Community Resource Specialist Program (Councilmember Mosqueda)

Currently, the Library contracts with the Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC) for a Community Resource Specialist (CRS) program. This program connects patrons, primarily those that self-identify as homeless, to resources related to issues such as housing, health, and social services and can also perform a vulnerability assessment (Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool or VI-SPDAT assessment) for patrons to enter the

Coordinated Entry for All system. The CRS employs a social worker and a case manager, who have held drop in hours at the Central Library four times per week and once a week at the Rainer Beach branch. Social worker interns also hold drop in hours at the Central Library twice a week. The case manager has drop in sessions once a week at the Ballard and Capitol Hill locations.

Expansion of these services could include a new focus on youth and further assisting adults. To help youth patrons and families at the Central Library and other branch locations would require an additional youth-focused social worker and a case manager (including intern assistance). To further assist adults would require two additional case workers. Levy costs for both proposals are described in Table 4.

Table 4: Costs to Expand Community Resource Specialist Program

Purpose	Cost Over Levy Period	Average Annual Cost	Annual Cost to Average Median Household	Monthly Cost to Average Median Household
Youth services support	\$1,149,992	\$164,285	\$0.46	\$0.04
Two case workers for adult support	\$985,707	\$140,815	\$0.40	\$0.03

Next Steps

Based on Council interest, Central Staff will prepare amendment language for the Select Committee's discussion and vote at the next Select Committee meeting on April 17.

Attachments:

- A. Current and 2020 Library Hours Information Without Additional Hours Options

cc: Kirstan Arestad, Central Staff Director
Erik Sund, Supervising Analyst

Attachment A - Current and 2020 Library System Hours Information Without Additional Hours Options

Branch Type	Number of Branches	Branch Name(s)	2019 Hours	2020 Hours (one hour earlier on Sunday)
Central Library	1	Central	Total Hours Per Week: 62 - Monday – Thursday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. - Friday – Saturday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. - Sunday: 12 – 6 p.m.	No Change - No Change - No Change - No Change
Extended Hours	13	Ballard Beacon Hill Broadview Capitol Hill Columbia Douglass-Truth Greenwood Lake City Northeast Northgate Rainier Beach Southwest West Seattle	Total Hours Per Week: 60 - Monday – Thursday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. - Friday – Saturday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. - Sunday: 1 – 5 p.m.	Total Hours Per Week: 61 - No Change - No Change - Sunday: 12 – 5 p.m.
Open Seven Days (short hours)	4	High Point ID/Chinatown South Park University	Total Hours Per Week: 46 - Monday – Tuesday: 1 – 8 p.m. - Wednesday – Saturday: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. - Sunday: 1 – 5 p.m.	Total Hours Per Week: 47 - No Change - No Change - Sunday: 12 – 5 p.m.
Open Six Days (short hours)	9	Delridge Fremont Greenlake Madrona-Sally Goldmark Magnolia Montlake NewHolly Queen Anne Wallingford	Total Hours Per Week: 39 - Monday – Tuesday: 1 – 8 p.m. - Wed, Thurs, Sat: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. - Friday: Close - Sunday: 1 – 5 p.m.	Total Hours Per Week: 40 - No Change - No Change - No Change - Sunday: 12 – 5 p.m.