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CAMBRIDGE MA.

Dear Members of the City Council:

On behalf of the Library 21 Committee, we whole heartedly encourage you to vote for the funding to hire a consultant to assist the City identify and evaluate sites for an expanded main library. Our committee has developed an exciting program for a new main library that will make it the "civic heart" of the city; it's based on a great deal of study, input from people all over the city and many library professionals.

The issue right now is having a professional search for the best site and setting up a process so the evaluation is open for all to see and discuss. That's what the consultants have been asked to do. When the sites have been evaluated against a set of criteria, then we can have a city-wide discussion about which site will work the best and the location can be chosen based on data and analysis.

The Broadway site will be analyzed along with four other potential sites. There has been considerable concern about the impacts of expanding on Broadway, including traffic flow, parking and the adjacent open space. However, in a city with only a little over six square miles, there will be concerns about any site. Therefore, we need a well-executed siting process and public discussion about where best to put our "civic heart."

Again, we urge you to support this appropriation request.

Sincerely,

Nancy Woods

Nancy Woods
Co-Chair
Library 21 Committee

Richard C. Rossi

Richard Rossi
Co-Chair
Library 21 Committee

15-1

Consent Communication #15

1105

Communication was received from Nancy Woods and Richard Rossi, Co-Chairs, Library 21 Committee, urging the City Council to vote for funding to hire a consultant to assist the City to identify and evaluate sites for an expanded main library.

In City Council February 23, 1998

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