

Janet Axelrod
21 Berkeley St.
Cambridge, MA 02138

9/6/00

To The Cambridge City Councillors,

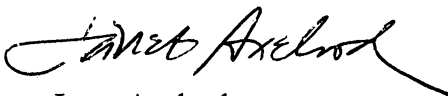
On August 3 of this year, the Cambridge Public Library received an announcement regarding an Application round for funding under the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program. The grant for which the city of Cambridge is eligible is a "construction grant for renovation, expansion and new construction of library facilities". Letters of intent for this application round are due by 4:00PM on October 4, 2000.

In 1996 our city missed out on the last Library Construction Grants because we were not ready to make the application for the letter of intent at that time. The amount of grant money at stake here is in the neighborhood of 3 to 5 million dollars, depending on how much is in the pot and how many other municipalities are at the point of committing to new construction. We at the library are confident that the Board of Library Commissioners, which makes these grants, holds Cambridge eligible and would very much like to grant us some of these funds, pending approval of our plan by the City Council. In other words, this money is truly knocking on our door.

We feel the need to urge you to move the decision about library siting to the front of your agenda, though we know you are in the process of evaluating the Prospect St. site. This grant comes at an unfortunate time, and we have no idea when the next round of monies will be made available. Some of us were surprised at how little time has passed since the last round; whether that bodes well or ill for the timing of future rounds of funding remains to be seen. A copy of the program notice containing a detailed description of the eligibility requirements for this round has been sent to Rich Rossi for sharing with any Councillors wishing to read or study it.

A timely decision on site selection by the City Council would help enable us to take our rightful place in line for the current grants. Perhaps then we could all move forward together toward this exciting new construction. Thank you for your consideration.

For Literacy,



Janet Axelrod
Cambridge Library Board of Trustees

cc: City Manager's office

Consent Communication #2

A communciation was received from Janet Axelrod, Cambridge Library Board of Trustees, relative to an application for funding under the Mass Public Library Construction Program for a consturction grant for renovation, expansion and new construction of library facilities.

In City Council September 18, 2000

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