CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

390 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Telephone: 651-266-8510
Facsimile: 651-228-8521

December 15, 2014

Dear Council President Lantry and Members of the Council,

Overall, I think we should be very pleased with the final 2015 budget – and thank you for adopting the measures I outlined in August. I am eager to build on the incredible citywide momentum that is so apparent in Saint Paul, including a booming downtown, vibrant neighborhoods, a transit corridor that is breathing new life into communities along University Avenue and more than $54 million for street repair and transportation upgrades.

In this budget, we successfully eliminated a $9.6 million budget gap, avoided any reduction in the number of police officers or firefighters and concentrated on continued strategic investments, including a commitment to ensuring roads in the "Terrible 20" are resurfaced, rebuilt or redesigned by the end of next year.

As I have said publicly, I am vetoing line 45 in the Amended Attachment A of Resolution 14-2076, version 2 of the Saint Paul Library Agency Budget in the amount of $345,000, and line 45 in the Amended Attachment A of Resolution 14-2078, the Library Board Resolution Adopting 2015 Budget and Requesting Property Tax Financing in the amount of $345,000.

As you know, my support of our libraries has been second to none. Over the last several years, we have fought hard to maintain hours at libraries across the City. We have evening hours Monday through Thursday at Arlington, Highland, Rondo and Sun Ray, in addition to evening hours at least two nights a week at every library other than Latimer Central Library. In our negotiations this Fall, I agreed to add additional hours on Sundays at Merriam Park Library. And we have made significant renovations at Highland, Sun Ray and Latimer Libraries while building a brand new library at Arlington Hills. In short, the Saint Paul Public Library system is thriving and is a tremendous resource for all of our residents – particularly children and families.

While I understand the appeal of adding even more hours to libraries, this goal must be achieved while maintaining a bedrock principle of my Administration – structural balance. This is not just a simple phrase or a laudable goal; it has allowed us to provide consistent service delivery in all areas of City Government, even in light of a deep recession and huge fluctuations in State Aid. The need to pay for ongoing expenditures with permanent, stable revenue has allowed us to maintain the highest credit ratings and invest in critical services. Had the additional hours been paid for by a stable and permanent revenue source – perhaps by cutting in other areas – I could have supported such a change.

The use of the parking fund simply does not provide a steady and permanent revenue source for additional library hours. In fact, given what we know to be a projected budget deficit of nearly $10 million in 2016, if we were to add hours in 2015, we would most likely be cutting them again as fast as we add them.

In addition, you and your colleagues have a long list of potential economic development projects in each of your Wards – projects that could be greatly assisted by one-time funds such as the parking fund. Taking away this flexible source limits our ability to do vital projects across the City that could lead to job growth and revitalization in neighborhoods throughout Saint Paul.

I hope that you will make the right, fiscally responsible decision and vote to uphold this item veto.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Coleman
Mayor, City of Saint Paul

C: Todd Hurley, Director OFS
Scott Cordes, Budget Manager, OFS
Kit Hadley, Director, Libraries

City of Saint Paul

City Hall and Court House
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
Phone: 651-266-8560

Legislation Text

File #: RES 14-2076, **Version:** 2

Approving and adopting the Saint Paul Public Library Agency Budget.

WHEREAS, state law and city ordinances require that the Saint Paul Public Library Agency submit an annual budget to the Mayor and City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Saint Paul Public Library Agency Director submitted a budget request to the Mayor for 2015, pursuant to ordinance; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with sections 10.02 and 10.03 of the City Charter, Mayor Christopher Coleman presented his proposed 2015 budget for the Saint Paul Public Library Agency on Thursday, August 14, 2014 to the Board of Library Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners, pursuant to city ordinance, considered Mayor Coleman's recommended budget and made adjustments, as indicated on Amended Attachment A, to said recommended budget, and adopted the Library Agency budget for fiscal year 2015; and

WHEREAS, the City Council considered the budget adopted by the Library Agency Board, and recommended adjustments if any as indicated Amended Attachment A; and

WHEREAS the amendment provides for additional evening library hours to be funded with general fund dollars freed up by paying for general fund parking meter repair and maintenance expenses with $345,000 from HRA parking fund cash balances; and

WHEREAS, the Saint Paul Public Library Board has adopted a 2015 financing plan, which includes property tax revenue, as indicated on Amended Attachments A and B, and requests that the Saint Paul City Council certify a 2015 property tax levy on behalf of the the Public Library Agency and adopt the 2015 Public Library Agency budget; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that pursuant to the provisions of the City Charter, the Saint Paul Public Library Agency budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2015 as adopted by the Saint Paul Library Agency Board and detailed in Amended Attachment A, is hereby adopted by the City Council; and be it

FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Director of Financial Services is hereby authorized to prepare the final 2015 Library Agency Budgets in accordance with the actions taken herein and to equalize, balance or set the final Library revenue sources and Library appropriations as necessary.

See attachments for additional details

Amended Attachment A

City Council :
RES 14-2076

2015 Budget Balancing Status
Library Agency
Resolution Attachment

			Spending	Financing
1				
2	**Mayor's Proposed Budget...**			
3	General Fund (Fund 270)		16,113,284	16,113,284
4	Special Funds (Fund 275)		1,213,403	1,213,403
5	Total		17,326,686	17,326,686
6				
7	Gap: Excess / (Shortfall)		0	
8				
9	**Technical Changes to the Recommended Budget...**			
10				
11	**Technical Changes to Adjust for Updates and Omissions:**			
12				
13	Library	Align Library budgets to proper accounting units and account codes	Budget Neutral	
14				
15	**New or Amended Grant Budgets:**			
16				
17	Library	Carry forward MELSA funding grant	116,255	116,255
18	Library	Adjust spending authority to account for new grants from the Friends of St. Paul Public Library in 2015 for an additional 1.6 FTEs.	76,314	76,314
19				
20	**Revised Revenue or Budget Estimates:**			
21				
22	Library	Carry forward special fund balance from 2014	40,000	40,000
23				
24	Budget After Technical Changes		17,559,255	17,559,255
25				
26	Gap: Excess / (Shortfall)		0	
27				
28	**Program Changes Proposed by the Mayor...**			
29				
30				
31	No Changes			
32				
33				
34	Budget After Policy Changes		17,559,255	17,559,255
35				
36	Gap: Excess / (Shortfall)		0	
37				
38	**Library Board Changes to the Proposed Budget**			
39				
40				
41	Library	Shift property tax levy from general fund		~~267,044~~ 500,000
42	Library	Increase Cultural STAR for Library materials		88,000
43	Library	Add Sunday hours at Merriam branch	55,044	
44	Library	Increase budget for Library materials	300,000	
45	Library	Provide additional evening hours	345,000	
46	Library	Shift non-property tax revenue from city to library general fund		112,044
47				
48	Budget After Policy Changes		~~17,914,299~~ 18,259,299	~~17,914,299~~ 18,259,299
49				
50	Gap: Excess / (Shortfall)		0	
51				

City of Saint Paul

City Hall and Court House
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
Phone: 651-266-8560

Signature Copy

Resolution: RES 14-2078

File Number: RES 14-2078

Library Board Resolution Adopting 2015 Budget and Requesting Property Tax Financing

WHEREAS, Mayor Christopher Coleman presented the proposed 2015 budget for the Saint Paul Public Library Agency on August 14, 2014 at the Central Library; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Saint Paul Public Library Agency held a public hearing on the proposed budget on December 3rd, 2014 in the City Council Chambers, after notice was published in accordance with the law, at which public hearing all those appearing who so desired to speak were heard; and

WHEREAS, the budget requested by the Library Agency and proposed by the Mayor includes tax levy financing as detailed in Amended Attachment B; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul Library Board does hereby adopt the 2015 budgets as proposed by the Mayor with such monetary changes, additions, and deletions as are hereby adopted and which, along with total budgets, are set forth in Amended Attachment A; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the amendment provides for additional evening library hours to be funded with general fund dollars freed up by paying for general fund parking meter repair and maintenance expenses with $345,000 from HRA parking fund cash balances; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners has determined that property tax revenues are required to finance the 2015 Budget as detailed in Amended Attachment B; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with City Ordinance, the Library Agency requests that the City of Saint Paul levy this financing amount, as shown in Amended Attachment ~~A~~B, plus a 2.0% allowance for delinquencies and uncollectibles, on behalf of the Library Agency, and certify to the Ramsey County Auditor the portion of the proposed maximum levy shown on the attached for the Saint Paul Library agency for taxes payable in 2015; and be it

FINALLY RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners requests and recommends that the Saint Paul City Council certify in 2015 a property tax levy as detailed in Amended Attachment B to be collected in 2015 which will provide net property tax revenues as indicated in Amended Attachments A and B for the 2015 Public Library Agency budgets.

At a meeting of the City Council on 12/10/2014, this Resolution was Passed.

Yea: 7 Board Member Bostrom, Board Member Brendmoen, Board Member Lantry, Board Member Thao, Board Member Thune, Chair Tolbert, and Board Member Stark

Nay: 0

Vote Attested by Council Secretary Trudy Moloney **Date** 12/10/2014

Approved by the Mayor Chris Coleman **Date**

Amended Attachment A

Library Agency Board:
RES 14-2078

2015 Budget Balancing Status
Library Agency
Resolution Attachment

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