

COUNCIL AGENDA: DECEMBER 3, 2013

SUBJECT: SUNDAY LIBRARY SERVICE HOURS

SOURCE: PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

COMMENT: The Library and Literacy Commission directed staff at their November 12, 2013, meeting to bring an item forward for City Council's consideration and approval regarding extending the Library hours to include opening on Sundays from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The City Library currently maintains 62 public service hours at the main library facility Monday through Saturday. It has become increasingly apparent, as seen over the last few years, that, due to economic circumstances, a majority of Library patrons served Monday – Saturday come to the City Library out of necessity for a safe place to gather, access technology, and utilize other resources that no other agency in our community offers. In addition to providing patrons with such services as books, newspapers, music CDs, videos and DVDs, books on CDs, copy machines, and many diverse programs, the Library is utilized as a warming center in the winter and a cooling center in the summer.

Annually, the main Library serves in various capacities to over 222,000 visitors, circulates over 288,000 items, accommodates over 62,000 computer sessions, and answers over 15,000 reference questions. This year staff surveyed Library patrons at the end of summer and 317 patrons responded that they would like Sunday Library hours, 162 responded that it made no difference to them, and 0 responded that they would be opposed to the idea.

Incorporating an additional day of Library service for our community will have minimal impact on current Library staffing and cost is estimated to be \$8,000 annually for personnel and utilities. This could be a six month pilot program followed by a staff report to the Library and Literacy Commission and City Council on its outcome. Should it merit the continuance of the program, staff would include the program as part of the upcoming budget development process for FY 2014-15 and seek Council approval.

Funding does exist in the current FY 2013-14 budget to accommodate the expansion of Library hours at the main Library on

DJ Director

MS Appropriated/Funded

J City Manager

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Sundays to add 4 hours of service per week. Funding for the additional hours is available in the budget through Measure H and the General Fund. A decrease in the Measure H books budget this fiscal year allowed partial funding for part-time staffing increase in order to provide more programming, an increase of hours at the main Library and the MJS Library, and provide for more community outreach opportunities. General Fund money originally budgeted for San Joaquin Valley Library System annual membership dues allowed for additional funding to support those same services, due to a one-time savings opportunity from the State. A staff survey assured that there is an ample amount of full and part-time staff willing to work on Sundays should the Library be open.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council provide direction to staff on the commencement of Sunday City Library hours.