

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF FENTON, MISSOURI, URGING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY COUNCIL TO PROVIDE GREATER OVERSIGHT AND ENSURE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, the St. Louis County Library District is governed by a Board of five trustees appointed by the County Executive and County Council; and

WHEREAS, the St. Louis County District is funded by property tax including a property tax increase known as Proposition L, that was approved by the voters in 2012 and that largely funds the District's "Your Library Renewed" campaign, which is more than a 120 million dollar effort to renovate or replace numerous branches in the St. Louis County Library District for the benefit of the public; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fenton believes in transparency and the importance to act with due diligence and great care when spending taxpayer funds and to cooperate and work with other government entities for the public benefit; and

WHEREAS, because the Library Board trustees are appointed - not elected - to their public offices they have no direct accountability to the taxpayers and residents they serve and can only be held accountable for their actions through vigilant oversight by the County Executive and County Council; and

WHEREAS, a consequence of the Library Board being allowed to escape accountability can be seen in the news reporting that the Board paid far in excess of any reasonable estimate of value for the property at Spoede and Clayton Roads and is ignoring community concerns regarding the facility, which is a part of the "Your Library Renewed Project;" and

WHEREAS, possibly due to pressure from other local governments expressing concern regarding the Library Board's recent decisions of spending taxpayer funds and the expired terms of all its members, the County Executive and County Council just replaced four members and reappointed one member of the Library Board; and

WHEREAS, public confidence requires great transparency and due diligence in decisions using taxpayer funds; and


WHEREAS, public confidence requires that the performance of those serving in appointed positions of public trust be provided great oversight and regularly reviewed especially as the Board continues to spend the considerable amount of taxpayer funds at its disposal for its "Your Library Renewed Project."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF FENTON, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Fenton urge in the strongest possible terms for the County Executive and the County Council to immediately take all steps necessary to restore fiscal integrity, transparency, and public accountability and confidence in the Library District and as part of such effort remove the President of the Board of Trustees and the Library Director and ensure great oversight and responsibility of the Board is provided by the County Council and County Executive as the Board of Trustees continues to spend taxpayer dollars on its Your Library Renewed Project throughout St. Louis County municipalities. The City Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the County Executive for distribution to the County Council.


PASSED by the Board of Aldermen the 19 day of December, 2019.

APPROVED this 19 day of December, 2019.



BOB BRASSES, MAYOR

ATTEST:



Amy Starck, Acting City Clerk