

**A RESOLUTION TO THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPALITY ASSEMBLY OPPOSING MOVING THE
ANCHORAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY UNDER THE PARKS DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, Mayor Bronson's proposed 2022 budget recommends that the Anchorage Public Library move under the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department where a non-librarian will oversee the Anchorage Public Library;

WHEREAS the Parks Department already has a huge responsibility, which could be hindered by adding additional workload to the Parks Director;

WHEREAS moving Anchorage Public Library under the Parks Departments dilutes the essential role of the library of providing: education to the community; a variety of technology assistance both in and outside the library; economic development to small businesses;

WHEREAS the Mission of the Anchorage Public Library is connecting people to education, information, and community, which lacks any significant overlap with the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department's Mission that "... provides outdoor recreation opportunities and conserves and interprets natural, cultural, and historic resources for the use, enjoyment, and welfare of the people;"

WHEREAS the Anchorage Public Library's Strategic Plan focuses on: Education & Skills for Life, Building Community, and a Bridge to Information & Resources. Conversely, the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department's annual strategic focuses on an "action plan for park improvements, community engagement and staff operations, resulting in more than \$3-7 million in annual investment in parks, trails and community recreation programs;"

WHEREAS the Anchorage Public Library is made up of a shared staff and budget for all five branch locations and the new Dimond Transit Express Library. Conversely, the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department has different geographical managers in Eagle River and Girdwood, and Board of Supervisors oversight, which would create disjointed control over buildings, collections, and staffs;

WHEREAS there is little budgetary savings to the city by moving the Anchorage Public Library to a division within the Parks Department;

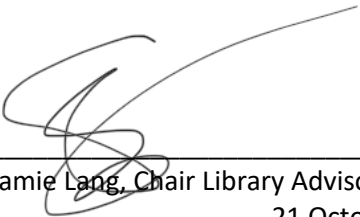
WHEREAS the Anchorage Public Library already provides equitable access to computing equipment, robust resources, safe, simulating, clean and well-maintained buildings, works with community partners and library programming helping to increase the foundations of reading, social skills, and creative skills through early learning educational activities, and where APL provides civic engagement, cultural enrichment, and enhances the quality of life for all Anchorage residents through provisions of life-long educational services including library materials, online resources, and programs/events. Thus, moving the Anchorage Public Library to Parks & Recreation Department does not improve what the library is already doing;

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Public Library, and our community patrons, need to have a department run by librarians who have the appropriate qualifications, foundations skills and knowledge to provide an essential center for learning, where there is free and equal access to information and library spaces, and where literacy and life-long learning is promoted;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Anchorage Public Library Advisory Board respectfully asks the Anchorage Assembly to deny the proposal to move the Anchorage Public Library under the Parks & Recreation Department, keeping the Anchorage Public Library an independent department.

Vote Yes – unanimously approved by the LAB board.

Vote No – no board member opposed



Jamie Lang, Chair Library Advisory Board
21 October 2021