

April 10, 2018

Mr. Ray Baker, Director
Miami-Dade County Public Library System
101 West Flagler Street
Miami, Florida 33130

Re: Village of Key Biscayne Library Project

Dear Ray:

Relative to our continuing quest to develop a new library for Key Biscayne, much time has passed since our last meeting in October, followed in November by our transmittal of a draft Interlocal Agreement (ILA). Since then, despite the quietude, we have continued to refine our planning, gauging community interest and specific programming goals along the way. We believe we've come to a juncture, and now have to choose the path to move this project forward.

Our ILA proposal sought to channel our mutual strategy discussed over the years. The gist was to provide for a collaborative design process and attribute to the Village the design and development financial obligation, subject to reimbursement from MDPLS based on a "library-standard" cost per foot. The reimbursement device could be articulated as rent, depending on MDPLS preference. The predicate in our view is that our facility is deficient and obsolete, and as community demand is compelling, we recognized that if we want a new, fuller-functioning library consistent our local standards and individual character, the Village will have to bear front-end costs, subject, however, to reimbursement.

Since we last met, we've thought critically about space needs, and we've come to some working conclusions. One is that a renovation versus a new-build is inadvisable. Another is that a 15,000 square foot building on the existing site will likely be inadequate, and unable to grow adequately considering space constraints on the site. We're thinking that 23,000 to 25,000 useable feet will be needed. This drove us to consider alternative sites within the Village. There are options, albeit with varying complications.

We're ready to move forward on this project now, one way or another. While we're open still to discuss our draft ILA, we're also exploring whether our best or necessary option is to withdraw from the library system and go it alone. I have spoken with you and Messrs. Santiago and Spring about my personal disinclination to separate one community from the larger region. But, this may need to be our path. If so, we conceive of some type of continuing inter-local relationship, as to be worked out. Please let's meet soon to discuss all this.

Sincerely,

Franklin H. Caplan
Vice Mayor

cc: Village of Key Biscayne Council
John C. Gilbert, Village Manager
Stephen Helfman, Village Attorney