



City of Santa Barbara
Mayor and Council Office

Memorandum

DATE:

TO: James L. Armstrong, City Administrator

FROM: Bendy White
Cathy Murillo

Two handwritten signatures are present. The top one is in cursive and appears to read "Bendy White". The bottom one is also in cursive and appears to read "Cathy Murillo".

SUBJECT: Eastside Library

- Summary of information to be presented to the City Council:

As one of the City's cost-cutting measures, the Eastside Library has been closed on Mondays for the last two years. While helping to balance the budget, the library closing causes a significant hardship in the Eastside community. People of all ages not only use the Eastside library for checking out books, reading and studying, but also rely on its eighteen computers for a variety of needs. Many neighborhood residents have no other access to a computer or to the internet.

Using predominantly hourly staff, the library could remain open Monday afternoons at a cost of about \$1,700 per month.

- Statement of specific action the Council will be asked to take:

- We request that the Council approve funding to keep the Eastside library open on Monday afternoons for the remainder of fiscal 2011-12.
- We also ask that Council consider funding Monday hours at the Eastside Library in its review of the 2012-13 budget.

- Statement of the reasons that it is appropriate and within the jurisdiction of the Council to consider this matter and to take the requested action:

Funding the Eastside library on Monday afternoons is a reasonable and prudent action for Council to take at this time, as General Fund revenues are roughly \$1.5 million ahead of projections. This action would consume less than \$9,000 of that unanticipated revenue.

Jim Armstrong, City Administrator
Eastside Library
January 30, 2012
Page 2

The library is a critical Eastside resource, serving as a constructive after-school activity for youth and families. In addition, residents of all ages use the computers and internet for a variety of important purposes such as job-hunting, resume writing, letters, emails and research projects, including homework. Having the Eastside Library available to residents on Mondays would be a positive, reasonable and greatly appreciated investment in the Eastside neighborhood.