

Eres, Christian

From: Greenleaf, Kim
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 11:47 AM
To: BCC Agenda Comments
Cc: Stillo, Tony
Subject: 9/19th BCC agenda, item #33 (budget)
Attachments: Palm Harbor East Lake Millage Rate and PPLC East Lake Community Library; URGENT: Proposed Millage Rates for PHCSA and PPLC; Palm Harbor Library Budget; Please do not reduce the milage rate for local libraries; Palm Harbor Library Budget; Do not cut budget to library and parks ; Palm Harbor Library; East Lake Community Library and the Trim Notice; Respect our wishes; East Lake Library Funding; Funding for PH library/parks and recreation; budget cuts; East Lake Library; Budget; Palm Harbor Library and Parks; Palm Harbor Library and Parks and Rec Proposed Budget Cuts; Mileage rate cut proposal; Palm Harbor Library Budget; Palm Harbor Library budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please add the attached emails in support of keeping the proposed millages (oppose millage reduction) for Palm Harbor Library, Palm Harbor Recreation, East Lake Library, East Lake Recreation, and the PPLC.

Kimberly H. Greenleaf

Executive Aide to Commissioner Dave Eggers

Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, District 4
315 Court Street, Fifth Floor
Clearwater, FL 33756
727-464-3276 office
kgreenleaf@pinellas.gov

Eres, Christian

From: KHanley-RR <khanley@tampabay.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 11:15 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Palm Harbor Library budget

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

The Palm Harbor Library recently celebrated its 45th anniversary. From a collection of books in the trunk of a car, PHL has grown to be an essential part of the Palm Harbor community supporting reading, literacy and the arts with materials, online resources and programs.

The proposed cuts to the budget would have a drastic effect on the services now provided.

Please continue your support for the Palm Harbor and East Lake libraries by approving the current budget with no cuts. Thank you.

Kathleen Hanley, Palm Harbor resident since 1994

Eres, Christian

From: tjhon@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 11:14 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Palm Harbor Library Budget

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioner Eggers -

In addition to checking out books, I have participated in some of the many programs from this Library since it started in 1978.

I consider it an immense benefit to my community, especially to children who grow up visiting the Library with their parents for as long as they can remember - their entire lives.

Use of computers for unfortunate folks who do not have one is an important contribution to our citizenry.

I love searching its website for books in which I am interested and having access to books from all libraries in the network. It is so convenient to reserve them and being able to pick them up in Palm Harbor.

At a time when inflation has been rampant, the budget should be INCREASED not decreased so this wonderful resource can continue just as it has.

Your support will be greatly appreciated and reflected upon renewing of your commission.

Sincerely,

Teresa Billingham
Palm Harbor Resident

Eres, Christian

From: Sharon Ozbun <ozbunsharon@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 11:04 AM
To: Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Latvala, Christopher; Eggers, Dave; Long, Janet C; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Mileage rate cut proposal

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioners,

It was brought to my attention this morning, that the board is discussing a proposal to cut the millage rate for the Palm Harbor and East Lake libraries, our parks and recreation department, as well as the Pinellas public library cooperative. While this may reduce my homeowners taxes slightly by a few dollars a year, it has a crippling affect on the organizations that you are thinking of taking money away from. The loss of from this cut would have a crippling effect on staffing, programs , hours and services. These are programs that bring so much to our community in a positive manner, and I cannot even begin to understand why anyone on the commission would think that would be a good idea. I strongly urge you to vote against cutting the millage rate and to continue to support the wonderful programs that can be found at the Palm Harbor and East Lake libraries, as well as the park and recreation department in our community.

Sharon Ozbun
Palm Harbor resident

Eres, Christian

From: Lori Aitken <laitken@anxietycentertampa.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 10:47 AM
Subject: Palm Harbor Library and Parks and Rec Proposed Budget Cuts

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Dear Pinellas County Commissioner,

I am writing this mail as a resident of Palm Harbor. I want to let you know how important the library services have been to my family.

My niece is 15 years old is a volunteer on the Youth Advisory Board of the Library. She loves books and reading and this position is a perfect fit. She is on the autism spectrum and has struggled with learning disorders, particularly reading. She has come through many emotional and behavioral challenges thanks to her own and her parents' perseverance, supportive members of the community and many other resources. To see her taking on a volunteer role doing something she loves is something I could not have imagined even a few years ago. Her ability to access books at the library has kept her off electronic devices (which were causing behavioral issues).

As a mental health professional and owner of Anxiety Center of Tampa, I experience first-hand the damage that too much screen time and social media use cause to our children and adolescents. There is a huge increase in depression and anxiety among young people, and much of it can be related to excessive use of devices.

My fear, not just for my own niece, but for all the children in Pinellas County, is that if the proposed budget cuts are made to the library and other programs, this will result in significantly less access to resources that have been a game-changer for so many, like my niece.

Please, please reconsider this proposal. I believe that, like me, most Pinellas County taxpayers would be willing to pay \$1 per month to contribute to the health and well-being of our children.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at the number below.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lori Aitken, MA, LMHC
Anxiety Center of Tampa
Co-Founder & Therapist
813-773-5807
www.anxietycentertampa.com

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destroy or delete the original and any physical copies of this email and any attachments. It is important to be aware that email communication can be relatively easily accessed by unauthorized people and therefore can compromise the privacy and confidentiality of such communication. Emails, in particular, are vulnerable to such unauthorized access due to the fact that servers have unlimited and direct access to all emails that go through them. A non-encrypted email is even more vulnerable to unauthorized access. Please notify Anxiety Center of Tampa if you decide to avoid or limit, in any way, the use of email. Unless I hear from you otherwise, I will continue to communicate with you via email when necessary or appropriate. Please do not use email for emergencies.

Eres, Christian

From: Bryant Davis <davibf15@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 10:45 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Palm Harbor Library and Parks

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Good morning,

I'm writing to you to express my concern at the potential for the Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation budgets being cut by the Pinellas County Board of Commissioners. When I first heard about this initiative, I was extremely disappointed. I write to you now hoping that you will consider what the public parks and library have meant to my family.

My two-year-old daughter Avery loves the library. The Palm Harbor library is a fantastic place for her to learn about the joys of reading, and for her to make lifelong friends. The library staff all know her name, and greet the three of us whenever we bring her by. My wife loves to bring her to all of their toddler time programming - Avery absolutely loves these experiences.

The public parks in Palm Harbor are also a fantastic resource. It is so nice to live in an area where we have well-maintained, safe parks with opportunities to be involved in community-run activities. Avery is still too little to take advantage of most of these, but we look forward to being able to raise her in a community where she has these opportunities.

We live in a county that is becoming increasingly unaffordable to live in. Slashing one of the few good free pastimes from the budget is an incredibly cruel measure that will have adverse effects on our county's youth. I urge you to reconsider.

Respectfully,

Bryant Davis
1806 Willow Oak Dr
Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Eres, Christian

From: Eileen Teator <etea11212@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 9:52 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Budget

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Please do not cut funding to the Palm Harbor Library.

Thanks.

Eileen Teator

Eres, Christian

From: Chris Carlsen <ccarlsen35@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 8:36 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Palm Harbor East Lake Millage Rate and PPLC East Lake Community Library

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Commissioner Eggers,

My disappointment in seeing this issue arising and with no explanation as to why is very disheartening. Our North Pinellas County community has worked hard to get to where it is. There are volunteers who work hard in our libraries. The libraries are a source of social interaction and keep a positive spirit going forward.

This unfortunately starts to question why us. Please consider evaluating this to see if this is really necessary.

Sincerely

Christopher Carlsen

Eres, Christian

From: Lois Eannel <lois-e@eastlakelibrary.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 6:36 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Cc: Greenleaf, Kim
Subject: URGENT: Proposed Millage Rates for PHCSA and PPLC

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioner Eggers,

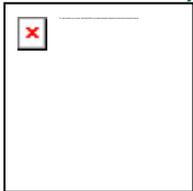
Thank you for the support at last week's BOCC meeting when the issue of a proposed reduction in the millage rate was brought to the floor. As you well know, a few dollars' increase in a homeowner's trim notice translates to tens of thousands of dollars in revenue losses for our libraries and recreation departments in unincorporated north county. This also holds true for the PPLC millage rate which, if reduced, has the greatest impact on Palm Harbor Library and East Lake Community Library, since these allocations, unlike the municipal libraries in the county, go directly into our operational budget. We are STILL trying to offset the removal of overdue fines several years ago, which further reduced our revenue income. Our population growth, increased costs for goods, utilities, staffing, etc., and the need for continued programs and services puts a strain on the existing funding we receive. Our estimated losses from both a reduction to our millage rate and that of PPLC would be over \$110,000, which would have a crippling effect on this library and community. We always continue to seek other sources of funding to help provide the services that our public expects and deserves. Reducing funding will not help anyone. It will have a negative impact on most. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Lois Eannel, Library Director
East Lake Community Library

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Lois Eannel, Director



East Lake Community Library
4125 East Lake Road, Palm Harbor, FL 34685
(727) 773-2665

"Strengthening our community through inspiration, enrichment, and education."

Eres, Christian

From: Hazel Plyer <hazelplyer@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 9:22 PM
To: Long, Janet C; brscott@pinellaa.gov; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Palm Harbor Library Budget

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

To the Commissioners,

I am writing in regard to the budgets for Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation.

The library and parks/rec of this unincorporated area of Pinellas County are an essential part of this city. Personally my family uses the library weekly, not only books and the play area for our son but we attend events for children most weeks. Those events give us and many other parents a safe, educational, enriching place to take our children to learn, socialize and grow. Those programs are free and are a blessing to so many families who cannot otherwise afford to attend such events. Moreover, those events and programs don't exist in Palm Harbor otherwise.

While new areas grow and flourish and attract families to them to live, spend money and create a home and future, you will do the opposite by not funding Palm Harbor library and parks/rec. Palm Harbor needs places that attract families into the community. If the Board is short sighted enough to underfund this area, Palm Harbor will continue become emptying strip malls, car washes and medical marijuana stores while families continue to move to places like Starkey Ranch where they find community.

Maybe your families and children have never needed a safe place, or never needed the extra help to educate and entertain your young children, but many of the people of Palm Harbor have. Many of the people who voted for you have. Please do not turn your back on this area.

Sincerely,

Hazel Plyer

Eres, Christian

From: claudiathomas@tampabay.rr.com
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 9:42 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Please do not reduce the milage rate for local libraries

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioners:

As a senior citizen on a fixed income, the purchasing power of which seems to be dwindling daily, I have had to eliminate many things from my life. My budget no longer allows me to get my nails done, to go to movies and plays, to eat out, to drive to club meetings or my grandson's away games due to high gas prices, to sleep well as the thermostat needs to remain set at a high temperature due to expensive electricity costs, to enjoy expensive cable television or to purchase a single thing that is not essential. The one thing remaining to brighten my life with new, interesting and enriching entertainment is the local East Lake Community Library. There I can check out as many books as I wish, attend special events, participate in programs that interest me, attend concerts, enjoy book group discussions, interact with others in the community and enjoy many other things which fill my hours with fun, socialization, learning and other benefits without having to spend money I do not have. The small amount I pay in taxes to support area libraries is a pittance considering the programs and services I enjoy at ELCL, at Palm Harbor Library and through the Pinellas Library Cooperative. If you reduce the milage rate, the number of programs and services will shrink as will the number of hours the libraries are open. This loss would bring many more dark hours to my already diminished world. Please do not reduce the mileage rate for my local libraries and the Pinellas Library Cooperative. To do so would have a devastating effect on so many of us who must rely more and more on the materials, programs and services they provide .

Truly yours,

Claudia H Thomas

5512 Salem Square Drive N.

Palm Harbor, Fl 34685

727-470-9849

Eres, Christian

From: Elizabeth Domzalski <elizabeth.domzalski@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 9:32 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Palm Harbor Library Budget

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Good evening, County Commissioners,

Thank you so much for all that you do for our community. My family and I moved to Palm Harbor a little over a year ago, and have been welcomed by this vibrant town. One of our favorite places has become the Palm Harbor Library. We recently received notice that you are considering cutting the budget for the library, and we would be incredibly disappointed if this were to happen.

Our daughter has attended many library events, including Baby Bookworms, Mother Goose Rhyme Time, and Toddler Story Time. We have participated in the "1000 Books Before Kindergarten" program, as well as the summer activity programs, and end of summer carnival. The library has been a fun place for us (and grandparents) to take our daughter to play, and to expose her to a vast number of books that exceed our own home library. We love that the librarians know our daughter by name and give her a warm welcome every time we come in.

I have never experienced a library that has so many enriching and engaging events and programs for individuals of all ages. For there to be so many programs available for our daughter as an infant and now as a toddler is exceptional. These programs are what make the library so wonderful, and they help bring our community together. By reducing funding for the library, these programs may be cut, which would leave many children (and adults) without a place to explore, learn, grow, and make connections. We have found a home away from home at the Palm Harbor Library, and we would be disappointed if others would be unable to have that experience due to lack of funding. I urge you to please reconsider your intent to cut funding.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Elizabeth Davis

Eres, Christian

From: Mariam Boutros <mrsmariamboutros@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 8:19 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Do not cut budget to library and parks

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear BOCC,

The Palm Harbor and East Lake libraries and parks are vital to how I raise my children and our quality of life. I go weekly, and have for years, with my little kids. I utilize the classes, the children puzzles and games, I go for the special events, and for exercise. I urge you not to vote for the millage cut proposal

Eres, Christian

From: Judy Cannaday <jcann54@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 7:50 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Palm Harbor Library

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Please do not reduce the budget of the Palm Harbor Library. This library is a vibrant, vital part of the community and certainly deserves the full support of the Pinellas County Commissioners.

I also believe that the Palm Harbor Parks and Rec. deserve your support; please do not reduce this funding.

Thank you,
Judy Cannaday

Eres, Christian

From: shopper1@dandaraw.net
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 7:42 PM
To: shopper1@dandaraw.net
Subject: East Lake Community Library and the Trim Notice

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

GOOD evening,

It has been brought to my attention that the county budget cuts will seriously affect the East Lake Community Library. As a concerned user of the facilities and a tax payer the proposed cuts would seriously impact ELCL's ability to provide many of the programs and services that we currently enjoy at ELCL. It is my understanding the net impact to each tax payer would be \$1.00 increase.

While I applaud your interest in cutting the budget I must however voice my objection to this particular cut. There are not many places that provide the resources and programs that ELCL does. And many of these resources and programs ranging from Toddler to Senior will end up being cut if this proposed budget cut is adopted.

Personally as a senior I have begun to rely on the opportunity to interact with fellow community members through the many programs and resources provided by my local community library. The options in the area are very limited and this proposed cut would seriously impact everyone in this area.

I ask that you reconsider the proposed line item cuts that fund our Library, it would be a true disservice to the community to enact these cuts.

Sincerely,

Christine Dandaraw

Christine Dandaraw,
453 Centerwood Dr
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

Eres, Christian

From: eward2@tampabay.rr.com
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 7:22 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Respect our wishes

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

9/13/2023

Dear Dave Eggers

It has come to my attention that there is discussion of reducing funding for the Palm Harbor Library. In this world of increasing social disconnect and reduced cultural richness, the library remains one of the few places that fosters a strong community while also offering a safe place to learn and grow together. Now is not the time to decrease services but rather this is the time to seriously acknowledge the need for social enrichment and a time to increase funding.

Simply put, the library offers the biggest bang for our taxpayer's buck that exists.

On a personal note, volunteering at the library has helped me navigate back to productivity after surviving a grueling year of chemotherapy and radiation. The staff and fellow patrons at the library have all been understanding and supportive I am so grateful. I look around at other library patrons and see other people who love the library as much as I do; the little kids picking out their favorite dinosaur book, teens piling their arms full of graphic novels, men taking out history books and cook books (yes, men cook !) home schoolers getting books to teach with, my fellow book club members checking out the latest great novel, the regulars who devour mystery novels and all the other services and things available: – librarian research – musical instruments- seeds to plant – music -tickets to museums - movies – and a quiet comfortable, air conditioned place to be.

Don't cut the funding.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Ward, Ph.D.

Eres, Christian

From: PATRICIA HARTLAUB <pajehart@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 6:27 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: East Lake Library Funding

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear County Commissioners,

As a resident of Eastlake, I am very concerned to hear that there is a proposal to reduce funding for East Lake Community Library.

The Library is the community center for East Lake. The many services and programs that are offered there provide educational opportunities for the young and social support for the adults and the elderly.

I understand the proposal was to cut the millage rate that provides the library with tax support. Additionally, the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative would see its budget cut.

As a home owner, my annual tax bill might go down about about \$4.00 or less. That doesn't help me much. What will hurt me is losing services from the library if it's operating budget is reduced by about \$100,000 (a combination of loss of tax revenue and loss of services from the library cooperative.)

Thank you for your support of the Library and reconsidering this cut in library funding.

Sincerely,

Patricia Hartlaub

Eres, Christian

From: Linda Bonomo <lbono@myyahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 5:38 PM
To: Long, Janet C
Subject: Funding for PH library/parks and recreation

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

I was quite disappointed to read where these two programs designed for children may suffer due to insufficient funding. These are very important to Palm Harbor, not only for the children but also for adults. I as a grandparent have utilized both the library and parks and recreation with my grandchildren on many occasions. To limit funding to these important programs would be detrimental to the children of Palm Harbor. I sincerely hope you consider my concerns and please do not limit the funding. We need both these programs.

Sincerely,
Linda Bonomo

Eres, Christian

From: Jane <jeb905@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 4:41 PM
To: Long, Janet C
Subject: budget cuts

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

I have been informed that the Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Rec are facing huge budget cuts. Although I am a resident of Clearwater I am situated in between Dunedin and Palm Harbor. I am a huge supporter and frequent visitor of both the library and parks. Please support these wonderful services and do not cut the budget

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,

Jane Bodami

Eres, Christian

From: Fran Carlsen <fcarlsen53@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 4:15 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: East Lake Library

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

I strongly oppose the budget reductions to East Lake library. They offer numerous beneficial programs for seniors as well as children of all ages. Please reconsider the reductions in the libraries budget.

Fran Carlsen
East Lake Resident

Eres, Christian

From: Greenleaf, Kim
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 3:55 PM
To: BCC Agenda Comments
Cc: Stillo, Tony
Subject: 9/19th BCC meeting, item #33 (budget)
Attachments: PHL; Palm Harbor Library Budget cuts; Palm Harbor Library Millage; Millage rates; Reduction in the millage rate for East Lake & Palm Harbor & PPLC; Palm Harbor Library; Palm Harbor Library funding; Palm Harbor Library and Rec; NO to budget cuts in PH Library & Parks and Rec; Do NOT defund the Palm Harbor Library; City Budget ; Palm Harbor Library Budget; Motion to cut millage to Palm Harbor Community Services; Gratitude for Palm Harbor Library and Parks & Recreation Programs; Libraries; Palm Harbor Library and CSA; Cutting the Millage rate to Palm Harbor Community Services; Please do not cut the budget of the Palm Harbor Library, but increase it.; Funding of Pal Harbor Public Library; Palm Harbor Library

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

The attached emails have been received in support of the full millage for the Palm Harbor Community Services, PPLC, and East Lake Library and Recreation.

Kimberly H. Greenleaf

Executive Aide to Commissioner Dave Eggers

Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, District 4
315 Court Street, Fifth Floor
Clearwater, FL 33756
727-464-3276 office
kgreenleaf@pinellas.gov

Eres, Christian

From: Maria Verdaasdonk <marver2902@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 1:44 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Palm Harbor Library

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

As a regular and member of the Palm Harbor Library I am saddened to hear about plans for severe budget cuts for this wonderful place.

Economic measures might be necessary, I understand, but please do not cut into the opening hours and/or salaries that the employees there get. They get paid very little for all the great services they provide.

Please, try to minimize the impact on the library as little as possible.

Thank you for your attention,

Sincerely

Marlies Verdaasdonk

Eres, Christian

From: Elizabeth Upton <pinkyjune1985@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 1:13 PM
To: Elizabeth Upton
Subject: Funding of Pal Harbor Public Library

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

To: Pinellas Board of Commissioners

Please do not cut back on funding of our Palm Harbor library!! This library serves 100's of people every day, all ages & for multiple needs. All Palm Harbor library patrons rely on this library as a lifeline for information, entertainment, classes, research, play time & contact with others. Cutting back on funding for this library would have devastating consequences on the entire community.

Mine is just one voice, but I know there are 1000's of other people in Palm Harbor who feel as passionately as I do about our library!!

PLEASE do not cut our funding!

Thank you for any assistance you can provide.

Elizabeth Upton

Palm Harbor resident

Sent from my iPhone

Eres, Christian

From: C O'Connell <mrssims81@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 12:49 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Please do not cut the budget of the Palm Harbor Library, but increase it.

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Good day, Mr. Eggers.

I understand that you and the other commissioners will discuss on Tuesday, Sept. 19, the upcoming budget for the Palm Harbor Library. With all of the marvelous programs and materials offered at this library, I hope that you will continue to provide a generous budget for the coming year - as much or more than in the past.

Each Tuesday and Thursday, I volunteer two hours to process donations for the bookstore. Working with other volunteers, and employees, in the back of the library, we all work diligently, efficiently, and with positive attitudes. This is the same behavior I see in the library when I visit as a patron. The library has invaluable resources - books, media, pamphlets, programs for adults, teens and children, and so much more. And the most invaluable resources are the employees, who are patient, kind, and extremely helpful.

Some of the programs that I enjoy at the library are the Let Us Cook on the second Tuesday of each month, and Tai Chi for Seniors on Mondays and Fridays in the community rooms. I know that the tutoring and ESOL classes are so popular that they have waiting lists. I'm grateful that the library extended their hours after CoVid, opening an hour earlier and closing later Monday through Thursday.

Please continue to support the Palm Harbor Library's budget at its present level or please consider increasing it. It is an invaluable treasure to me and so many Pinellas County residents, not just those of us who live in Palm Harbor. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Courtenay B. O'Connell
3048 Sugar Bear Trail
Palm Harbor, FL 34684
727-492-3032

Eres, Christian

From: Tracey Quillen <revtraceyq@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 12:45 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Eggers, Dave
Subject: Cutting the Millage rate to Palm Harbor Community Services

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Janet Long
Brian Scott
Charlie Justice
Dave Eggers
Chris Latvala
Kathleen Peters
Rene' Flowers

September 13, 2023

Dear Pinellas County Commissioners:

I saw in our local library the motion to cut the millage only to Palm Harbor Community Services Agency and entities which obviously includes our libraries. I would imagine there is no easy path when a decision has to be made to modify budgets. It may be further complicated when the public does not know how the decision came about to ONLY burden Palm Harbor Community Services rather than more equitably spreading the measures evenly through Pinellas County as a whole.

The Pinellas County web page as of July 20, 2022 commended the commissioners on the 2023 budget, "Conservative fiscal practices and new growth have allowed the County to meet key budgetary goals of strengthening access to behavioral health...and creating a cultural plan that coordinates investments into the arts." What changed this mindset in 2023?

When is the last time you walked into a library? I have to admit, I have lived here more than 3 years and have watched my tax properties increase and not taken advantage of some of the county services; however, today that changed. My daughter and I walked into the East Lake Library and walked out with a new library card each, my daughter an armful of books, and me with resources to share with my aging congregation.

Since covid, it has been difficult for many of our seniors to feel safe to reconnect and they are craving connection. The East Lake Library offers a service to bring books to neighbors who cannot make it to the library. They have resources to share where free grief groups are available, community classes and well-care events and free access to participating museums. This library, like others, has a plethora of classes for children, teens and adults. What a beautiful way to make connections. Oh and let's not forget books and movies in the library.

When we close resources for the mind and well-being of the community, what volumes does that speak to us as civic leaders? Where are our priorities?

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

We are all public servants and I believe we would be remiss in our duties to not pause and see who we are affecting with our decisions. When hard decisions have to be made, could not the burden be shared?

According to REDFIN, as of July 2023, Palm Harbor home prices were up almost 16% compared to last year with a median sales price of \$475K. 132 homes sold this July. I watch the houses go for sale in my neighborhood with an average days-on-market of less than 30 days. Rocket Homes reports a 10% increase in home values in Palm Harbor from 2023 as compared to 2022, the largest change when compared to Dunedin and Tarpon Springs which had single digit increases; Oldsmar and Clearwater had a slight decrease in sales.

Each home sale means additional income for the county coffers. Each increase in the sales prices means an increase in the county coffers. And yet Palm Harbor is the only city being penalized with a dramatic cut to its services. That does not make sense to me.

I would request that you be mindful of these difficult decisions and possibly reconsider a more equitable distribution of budgeting matters. It matters to each community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tracey Quillen
Palm Harbor Resident
revtraceyq@gmail.com

Eres, Christian

From: Jeanne Gagliardo <jeannegags@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 12:42 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Palm Harbor Library and CSA

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioner,

I'm writing to you today to express my desire to have funding for Palm Harbor Library and CSA (Parks and Rec) to continue and/or to increase funding. Both agencies have greatly impacted my family's lives. From the early days when my husband joined others to institute funding by taxing 1/4 mil each for both the library and recreation programs, we've enjoyed the benefits of being a part of the Palm Harbor community.

My son played baseball, tennis and soccer for years utilizing the fields those funds provided. Later he became a referee in soccer. The library was a source of many research projects as he grew. His family are Palm Harbor residents as these entities have enhanced living here.

Currently, my granddaughter enjoys the many specialty programs the library offers, checks out books, musical instruments, and science kits, and crafts weekly in Makers Space. She also has played soccer and enjoys playing at Putnam Park.

I'm an avid reader so the library has saved me thousands of dollars by loaning books. Also, I've attended specialty computer, crafting, and gardening classes. I've volunteer countless hours at the Centre for breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Halloween evening spook fair.

My husband had served as Treasurer of CSA for over a decade and was president of PHYSCA. His decades of coaching enriched his life as much as helped develop boys into men as they learned the value of persistence, honesty, and fair play.

Jeannie Gagliardo

Eres, Christian

From: Michelle Ranahan <mlranahan@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 12:04 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Libraries

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Hello,

The East Lake Library and the Palm Harbor Libraries are like second homes to our family. The programs they provide have been life altering for my three children who are 3, 8, and 10. If cuts are made to these entities my family will be greatly impacted. From preschool story time to sign language for my three year old and after school fun/ learning and crafts for my older two these libraries are places we attend at least 3-4 times a week and have since my oldest was an infant. What they provide for this community is so important. Please do not vote to cut the millage for PHL, ELCL, PH ReC, EL Rec and PPLC.

Thank you,
Michelle Ranahan

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

Eres, Christian

From: Greenleaf, Kim
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 12:00 PM
To: BCC Agenda Comments
Cc: Stillo, Tony
Subject: 9/19th BCC Budget Hearing, Item #33
Attachments: Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Result #28506326; Funding for Pinellas County libraries and community resources; Do NOT support the mileage reduction bill for libraries!; FY Budget Funding ; Thank you for your support!; BUDGET CUTS; Appreciation for the Outstanding Work on Palm Harbor Library and Parks & Recreation; Library Budget Cuts; Budget cuts to Palm Harbor Library and Recreation; Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Recreation ; Continued funding for Palm Harbor Library; Proposed Budget Cuts; Please keep library funding; Palm Harbor Library and Rec Center; Urgent Appeal to Preserve Funding for Palm Harbor Library; East Lake Library; Public Library Services District & Palm Harbor Community Services Funding; NO on Millage Rate Reduction for East Lake; Palm Harbor Library & Rec Services Supporter; Palm Harbor Library; Palm Harbor Library & Parks and Rec; RE: Library Millage Rate; Palm Harbor Library and Parks; Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation; Palm harbor parks & library funding; Millage Rate Proposal for East Lake and Palm Harbor Proposal; Palm Harbor cutbacks; PALM HARBOR & EASTLAKE REDUCE MILLAGE RATE PROPOSAL; Budgets for Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation; Palm Harbor Library; Gratitude for Palm Harbor Library & Parks Recreation Programs; Supporting Full Funding for Palm Harbor Library and Parks & Recreation; Palm Harbor Library; Please do not cut funding to the Palm Harbor Library

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please add the attached emails of support for the millages of the East Lake, Palm Harbor, and PPLC budget and millages as proposed. Also, received a phone call in support of the budgets and millages from:

Jane McGarvey (686-2029)

Kimberly H. Greenleaf
Executive Aide to Commissioner Dave Eggers
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, District 4
315 Court Street, Fifth Floor
Clearwater, FL 33756
727-464-3276 office
kgreenleaf@pinellas.gov

Eres, Christian

From: Charlaine Prefontaine <charpideas@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 11:49 AM
Subject: Gratitude for Palm Harbor Library and Parks & Recreation Programs
Importance: High

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioner,

I want to express my heartfelt support and appreciation for the outstanding work that the East Lake Community Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation have been doing in our community. Their programming has had a profoundly positive impact on me.

The East Lake Community Library has been a haven of knowledge, inspiration, and connection for me. The variety of books, educational resources, and activities it offers has greatly enriched my life.

Moreover, the welcoming, friendly and knowledgeable staff at the library have always gone the extra mile to assist me, making each visit a truly enjoyable experience that I look forward to. It's heartwarming to see how they create a sense of belonging within our community, and for me personally.

As a disabled senior who is unable to drive, the library provides me with book/video pickups and deliveries, which allows me to use its resources fully - much more so than if I had to find transportation to get there. That program, among all the others, truly enriches my life. But what's most enriching are the *people* who work there who build warm relationships and create community among all the patrons. I do not have many contacts in Florida, and I can truly say that going to the library is a warm and friendly social experience that sustains me.

In addition, Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation provides endless opportunities for residents to stay active, engage with nature, and build lasting memories. The parks are meticulously maintained, and the range of recreational activities cater to a wide spectrum of interests. These programs support physical and mental well-being.

I am writing this message to encourage continued support for these invaluable institutions. Their dedication to enhancing the lives of Palm Harbor residents cannot be overstated. These programs have not only made our community a better place to live but have also enriched the lives of countless families.

I am strongly AGAINST Chris Latvala's motion to decrease library funding. His website says he is "an advocate for our community." Hmmm. This current motion seems to contradict this. His website also says that he is "a strong advocate for teachers, increasing opportunities to access education." More than anywhere else, where does support for education happen? AT THE LIBRARY.

In conclusion, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the East Lake Community Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation for their unwavering commitment to our community. I hope that their exceptional work continues to thrive, benefiting current and future generations.

I hope that you will see clearly the needs of our community, how important our library is in meeting them, and vote NO to Latvala's motion. Show us that YOU advocate for our community.

Thank you once again for everything you do.

Sincerely,

Charlaine Prefontaine
Palm Harbor, FL

Eres, Christian

From: Suzanne Johnson <suzyqtv@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 11:26 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Please do not cut funding to the Palm Harbor Library

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioners,

Please do not cut funding to the Palm Harbor Library. It has been an important part of my daughter's life. She turns five at the end of September and we have been visiting the library since she could toddle. I love how the librarians in the children's area greet the children and make them feel welcome.

I am a child of the 80's and grew up in Clearwater, specifically unincorporated Pinellas. When I was a kid, we had to pay for access to the Clearwater library and my parents could not afford it. I was envious of my best friend who could check out so many books from the library for free, but I could not. I didn't have a stack of books to read at home. I never developed the love of reading.

When I visit the Palm Harbor Library with my daughter, I am appreciative of this simple privilege that is so important to children and adults. The librarians are very knowledgeable and it's a pleasant and calm place to visit on the weekends with my daughter. She has access to her elementary school library, but it won't be something we can easily do together, or on the weekends.

Please do not cut funding, if possible, give them more funding. Childrens books are so expensive, and the library is the best way to expose our children to new material that we parents can also review first. Please keep our library system strong and inclusive of all people of Pinellas.

Thank you,

Suzanne Orgera
3252 Cloverplace Drive
Palm Harbor, FL 34684
727-698-1775

Eres, Christian

From: Tania Lentine <vania.lentine@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 11:25 AM
To: Tania Lentine
Subject: Palm Harbor Library

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

To the Board of Commissioners,

Running a business is no easy task especially when you are charged with maintaining the quality and quantity of the product. I understand budgets are a necessity; however, I ask you as not only an owner of a business, a mother and patron of the library to consider looking elsewhere for budget cuts. My family utilizes the children's area at least once a week. We also use the gaming options and selections that are provided by this library. We drive from Eastlake to Palm Harbor just to see all of the friendly faces and services that are provided by this team. My son, and his friends thoroughly enjoyed the reading dragon program over the summer, Maker's Space and also the carnival too.

I didn't grow up going to the library, I honestly thought it was where people who couldn't afford books would go. This all changed when I had my son, we were in Orlando and luckily, I was very spoiled with all the activities and services they provided the community. When we moved to this area, I was a little sad to see the lack of programs provided. I know the local library is a small one (Eastlake), and there are space constraints and budgets. This previous summer tour program allowed me and my six-year-old and friends to explore all the libraries and realize what they had to offer. I also wrote an email to Marisa on 7/24/2023 stating the following:

Good afternoon,

First I wanted to thank you and your team for always being pleasant and working so hard. Ms Susan, Allison and AJ are amazing!! They not only work so well together, but are fantastic with the kids and adults. We love coming to the Palm Harbor library out of all of the local libraries.

We would like to somehow donate to your area. Fiscally or with gifts, we do not have unlimited funds, but would like to contribute something to the area that our child loves.

Thanks again!!

Kindest regards,

Tania & Kain Lentine

Again, I know there are limited funds, but for the community and young kids I would ask you to try to make it a priority to keep and enhance what our libraries need.

Kindest Regards,
Tania Lentine

Eres, Christian

From: amanda@prettyhouseteam.com
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 11:24 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Supporting Full Funding for Palm Harbor Library and Parks & Recreation

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my heartfelt support for the Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation, two institutions that have had a profoundly positive impact on my family and me.

The Palm Harbor Library has been an invaluable resource, providing a haven of knowledge, inspiration, and connection for our community. The diverse range of books, educational resources, and activities it offers have greatly enriched our lives. As a parent, I am particularly grateful for the exceptional children's programs that have nurtured a love for learning in my son. From imaginative storytime sessions to skill-sharpening workshops, the library has played a pivotal role in his development.

The library's dedicated and knowledgeable staff consistently go above and beyond to assist us, making each visit a delightful experience. Their efforts create a strong sense of belonging within our community, fostering an environment where individuals of all ages can thrive.

Similarly, Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation has provided endless opportunities for us to stay active, connect with nature, and forge enduring memories. The well-maintained parks and a diverse array of recreational activities cater to a wide spectrum of interests. Personally, I have witnessed the positive impact of these programs on my family's physical and mental well-being. From joyful family picnics to participating in sports leagues that promote teamwork and camaraderie, our quality of life has been greatly enhanced.

The sense of community cultivated by both the library and Parks and Recreation department is truly exceptional. Their efforts transcend mere program offerings; they actively bring people together, creating bonds and friendships that last a lifetime.

I write this message to wholeheartedly encourage continued support for these invaluable institutions. Their dedication to enhancing the lives of Palm Harbor residents

is immeasurable. These programs have not only made our community a better place to live but have also enriched the lives of countless families like mine.

In conclusion, I extend my deepest gratitude to the Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation for their unwavering commitment to our community. I sincerely hope that their exceptional work continues to flourish, benefiting both current and future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Your support in securing full funding for these essential resources is greatly appreciated.

Best,



Amanda Lebiszczak
Broker Associate
C: 912-655-2774

The Pretty House Team
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- Over \$300 million sold
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P.S. I send a weekly email to my top clients/friends. Would you like to be included?

Eres, Christian

From: noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 11:06 AM
To: BCC Agenda Comments

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Live Form

Topic Palm Harbor Library Funding
BCC Agenda Date 9-19-2023
Your Stand on the Issue Support

Comments

It has come to my attention that your Board is reviewing funding for Palm Harbor Library. I strongly urge you to continue to fund this Library. When I moved to Palm Harbor I had to wait for Internet service and was able to go to the Library to conduct my business. They had individual rooms where I could set up my computer and work. This was very valuable. The Library also sponsors many worth while programs. I was part of the initial Writers class which was instrumental in building my confidence as a writer. They continue to have a writers' group that meets where we can discuss ideas. During the pandemic the Library was like a life-line to me. They offered take/make crafts which I got each month, a critical creative outlet. Now I attend the craft sessions in person. I've attended many in-person talks that highlight local history, in cooperations with the Palm Harbor Museum. I proudly support both organizations. The discussions I've attended are very crowded, as it is clear the community appreciates this type of programming. I also appreciate the sales area, I'm always finding magazines or puzzle books to purchase. The local Museum passes are valuable as well, they have given me the chance to attend museums that I may not have otherwise. There are many, many other programs the Library has for children, teens and seniors that I cannot name them all. I am in 100% support of the Library, it's volunteers and all they do. Please, please continue your financial support. I thank you for your consideration

Citizen Name Sandra Dietrich
Address 235 N Harbor Dr
PALM HARBOR, fl 34683
United States|US
Phone +19049533
Email sdietrich0902@gmail.com

Eres, Christian

From: Mark & Anne <maclbar@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 10:59 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Gratitude for Palm Harbor Library & Parks Recreation Programs

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt support and appreciation for the outstanding work that the Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation have been doing in our community. Their programming has had a profoundly positive impact on my family and me.

The Palm Harbor Library has been a haven of knowledge, inspiration, and connection for us. The variety of books, educational resources, and activities it offers have greatly enriched our lives. I am particularly grateful for the diverse range of children's programs that have helped foster a love for learning children. From storytime sessions that ignite their imagination to educational workshops that sharpen their skills, the library has played an instrumental role in their development.

For adults, the library offers a wide variety of tools for research and development. They offer literacy classes, citizenship classes, and literacy grammar. In addition, the library offers genealogy research tools and master gardening classes. They encourage reading through a summer reading for all ages.

The Palm Harbor Library also offers the opportunity to check out instruments such as guitars and ukuleles. The Lending Library is a Redbox type that allows patrons to check out new DVD's as well as new books. They plan to purchase more large print books for our elderly members.

Moreover, the welcoming and knowledgeable staff at the library have always gone the extra mile to assist us, making each visit a truly enjoyable experience. It's heartwarming to see how they create a sense of belonging within our community.

On the other hand, Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation has provided endless opportunities for us to stay active, engage with nature, and build lasting memories. The parks are meticulously maintained, and the range of recreational activities cater to a wide spectrum of interests. Personally, I have witnessed the positive impact of these programs on my family's physical and mental well-being. From family picnics at the beautiful parks to participating in sports leagues that promote teamwork and camaraderie, our quality of life has been greatly enhanced.

The sense of community that both the library and Parks and Recreation department foster is truly exceptional. It's not just about the programs they offer but the way they bring people together, creating bonds and friendships that last a lifetime.

I am writing this message to encourage continued support for these invaluable institutions. Their dedication to enhancing the lives of Palm Harbor residents cannot be overstated. These programs have not only made our community a better place to live but have also enriched the lives of countless families like mine.

In conclusion, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation for their unwavering commitment to our community. I hope that their exceptional work continues to thrive, benefiting current and future generations.

Thank you once again for everything you do.

Warm regards,
Anne Bartels

--

Mark & Anne Bartels

Eres, Christian

From: Sandy Dietrich <sdietrich0902@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 10:59 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Palm Harbor Library

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. [Do not](#) click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

It has come to my attention that your Board is reviewing funding for Palm Harbor Library. I strongly urge you to continue to fund this Library.

When I moved to Palm Harbor I had to wait for Internet service and was able to go to the Library to conduct my business. They had individual rooms where I could set up my computer and work. This was very valuable.

The Library also sponsors many worth while programs. I was part of the initial Writers class which was instrumental in building my confidence as a writer. They continue to have a writers' group that meets where we can discuss ideas.

During the pandemic the Library was like a life-line to me. They offered take/make crafts which I got each month, a critical creative outlet. Now I attend the craft sessions in person.

I've attended many in-person talks that highlight local history, in cooperations with the Palm Harbor Museum. I proudly support both organizations. The discussions I've attended are very crowded, as it is clear the community appreciates this type of programming. I also appreciate the sales area, I'm always finding magazines or puzzle books to purchase. The local Museum passes are valuable as well, they have given me the chance to attend museums that I may not have otherwise.

There are many, many other programs the Library has for children, teens and seniors that I cannot name them all. I am in 100% support of the Library, it's volunteers and all they do. Please, please continue your financial support.

I thank you for your consideration and if you have any other questions, please feel free to reach out.

Sandy Dietrich

Eres, Christian

From: J B <pub.berros@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 10:37 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Cc: jinelle@phcsa.net; Erica Lynford (PC)
Subject: Budgets for Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. **Do not** click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Hello

I have been informed that you are willing to cut the budgets for the Palm Harbor Library and for the Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation.

I am completely against this.

Palm Harbor Library is such a beautiful library with an amazing staff. We go there every week. My children are in elementary and middle school. They need books to read. They also need to go there to meet new children and families. When we go there we feel at home.

Also the Palm Harbor library is bringing so many events and we always have so much fun.

Please don't cut this for the children and families from Palm Harbor.

Without the Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation, Palm Harbor wouldn't have Parks in such a good shape. The parks are very well maintained.

We need recreation for sports and for fun. My children love all the proposed activities. This summer they enjoyed the different camps that were proposed. The staff is always helpful and willing to help.

You can't cut this from the Palm Harbor residents.

As a city you need to keep a good community. These two essential elements of the city (Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and recreation) are part of it.

So please think about your residents, your families, children, elderly people...and don't cut the budgets for such vitals in our city!

Thank you

Camille Berros
559 308 5733
2256 Hidden Lake Dr, Palm Harbor, FL, 34683

Eres, Christian

From: Gloria Ouellette <gloria.ouellette@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 10:19 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: PALM HARBOR & EASTLAKE REDUCE MILLAGE RATE PROPOSAL

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. [Do not](#) click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Commissioners,

Libraries and recreation facilities are critical to the mental and physical health of communities. They are among the few facilities that people of all ages and income levels can enjoy and use to enhance their lives. Please do not reduce the finances in this area.

Gloria & Robert Ouellette
4265 Enfield Ct
Palm Harbor, FL 34685

Eres, Christian

From: E S <alwaysmerryand@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 10:15 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Palm Harbor cutbacks

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

This is to urge you to vote AGAINST proposed cutbacks, as our Library and Parks are the heart of Palm Harbor, as demonstrated by their rate of usage.

Thank you.

Edward P. Strickland, Ph.D

Eres, Christian

From: Lois Powell <ljpbonsai@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 9:58 AM
To: Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen
Subject: Millage Rate Proposal for East Lake and Palm Harbor Proposal

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

I am writing to inform you of my concern for the proposed reduction in the millage rate that will affect many of our countywide services.

These services are so important to us. The programs at the library are available to all and need to continue for that very reason. They provide education as well as fun and family interaction. These are all inclusive programs and good for our community. Reducing what continues to support the health and education of our community would have a significantly negative affect. The East Lake Library is more than just a library. It is a community support, education and center for families. The programs including the e-resources and talking books programs are among many important services provided.

Please, do not go forward with this proposed reduction.

Thank you.
Lois J Powell
1758 Eagle Trace Blvd
Palm Harbor, FL



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Eres, Christian

From: Betty Colossi <bettycolossi22@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 9:42 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Palm harbor parks & library funding

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

My name is Betty and I've been a Palm Harbor resident since 2001.

It's been a blessing and although Palm Harbor is not a city, residents like me have been enjoying city-like benefits such as the park, the center and the palm harbor library for us and our children. My 3 daughters (17, 14 & 7 years old) have been attending the library since they were babies and they continue using it. My 7 & 14 years old girls attend TaeKwondo classes twice a week with Ms Tiffany at the center. My 14 years old spends time at the library and participates in a few programs for teens.

We love going to Pop Stansell Park. Palm Harbor is our home and our community needs the necessary funding to keep providing those services for our families, please !!!!

Our family supports the Palm harbor library and the Palm Harbor Parks & recreation. Please do not cut funding to serve the Palm Harbor community!

Respectfully,
Betty Colossi

Eres, Christian

From: Donna Hannigan <hanno6cl@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 9:23 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Hello and Good Morning,

I understand that there is a possibility for budget cuts for the Palm Harbor Library as well as Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation.

Let me start off by saying that this would be such a negative impact for Palm Harbor and the community. Both entities have been and still are a big part of my family's world.

I took my daughter to the Palm Harbor Library for all the programs they offered for children. Starting off at a year old and up. She is now 15 years old.

These programs fostered a love of reading and learning! She is now a sophomore at PHUHS in the IB program.

It also started her on her Star Wars journey at the age of 4.

I can not express enough our love for the Palm Harbor Library, the programs and of course the staff through the years.

Now on to the Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation. I take my 87 year old mother there every Thursday for Bingo. This is something she looks forward to every week!!! We have met some wonderful people through the years .

My daughter has taken part in their summer camp and this past summer was a camp counselor. Same as the library, the staff is wonderful and make you feel like family!

Please take into account how budget cuts to these two amazing and greatly needed entities would affect the people and community you represent.

My story is just one of many.

Thank you for your time.

Donna Maldonado

Eres, Christian

From: sweetbird1 <sweetbird1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 9:08 AM
To: Scott, Brian; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; kpeter@pinellas.gov; clatvala@pinellas.gov; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie
Subject: Palm Harbor Library and Parks

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioner,

The community has been asked to send letters to stress the importance of these services to our community.

Generations of family members have been enriched by the Library and it's programs. The Parks and the Library are and integral park of Palm Harbor's rich culture, the value of which cannot be quantified.

We are hoping that, as part of our community, you will value these services and vote not to cut their budgets.

Thank you,

Linda Battaglia and family

Palm Harbor resident for over 30 years.

Eres, Christian

From: Claudia Hernandez <chernandez73101@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 8:39 AM
To: Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Peters, Kathleen; Latvala, Christopher; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie; Scott, Brian; Long, Janet C
Subject: RE: Library Millage Rate

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Hello-

My husband and I live in Palm Harbor, 2959 Shannon Circle. I was wondering how much of a difference reducing the millage rate for the Palm Harbor and East Lake entities as well as the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative would have on our bill.

We are both huge fans of the library and all it provides for the community and we do not support reducing the millage rate. I am curious to find out how much of a difference this would even have on our bill. I have heard this would be less than \$1 a month of a difference from homeowner's trim notices, is this true?

We are trying to understand the reasoning behind this motion. Our libraries are way too important within our communities. If saving \$12 a year would mean the library would be losing over \$100K... this makes absolutely no sense, especially in these times when everything is increasing in cost.. Spending \$12 a year will not make or break anyone's financial situation, a negative impact on our library and recreation on the other hand would be a great loss.

Our libraries act as a hub of information, providing our community with resources that would cost much more than \$12 a year. We ask you to please reconsider and give the libraries the money they deserve to continue to do the amazing work they do within our community.

Thank you for your time,

Claudia Hernandez
Roberto Hernandez
727-481-7453

Eres, Christian

From: Diana Silveira <dee987@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 8:22 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Palm Harbor Library & Parks and Rec

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Hi,

I am a resident of Pinellas County and live in Palm Harbor. We have been in Pinellas County for almost fifteen years. The vibrant and active library and our Parks and Recreation, are the main reasons we love this area.

My family uses the library regularly to check out materials, attend programming, and receive help from library staff.

My son has gone to the Rec Center for summer camp and now plays soccer on their fields. We've attended many community events there.

I find it disheartening that the commission is looking to cut the budgets in our area. These organizations are the heart and backbone of our community. Could you please help support them by not cutting their budget?

Sincerely,
Diana Silveira
Palm Harbor, Florida

Eres, Christian

From: Carol Townsend <carol.hricz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 7:10 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Palm Harbor Library

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

September 13, 2023

I am writing to tell you how important the Palm Harbor Library is in my life... I am a retired nurse practitioner who moved to Palm Harbor 13 years ago. Have two friends who live here but no one else at the time. The library was my and is my friend. I am there at least twice a week. The staff is incredible, always smiling and welcoming and helpful. They provide activities, music, crafting, educational classes, lots of fun, books, friendly comfortable gardens with musical instruments and more. Did you know they even have machine that prints out short stories? They have a fabulous bookstore. They have a fantastic literacy program and citizen classes. Beautiful art can be found in the library, it's as if they are a museum of sorts. Local artisans have a place to display their products. The library provides volunteer time for students and seniors like me, keeping us off the streets. They are a fabulous community space for retirees, families and all. Just come on by and see for yourself. The Palm Harbor Library is loved by so many it would be shameful if funding was cut even a penny.... They do so much for so many with so little funding as it is. Please do not cut their funding. And.. Please come on by and see how special we are at the Palm Harbor Library. Let me walk you around and introduce you to my family. AND PLEASE DO NOT CUT ANY FUNDING FOR THIS A PLUS PLUS COMMUNITY LIBRARY.

Carol Townsend
3292 McMath Drive
Palm Harbor, FL 34684

Eres, Christian

From: Melissa Moré <melissaannmore@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 10:50 PM
To: Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Peters, Kathleen; Latvala, Christopher; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie; Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian
Subject: Palm Harbor Library & Rec Services Supporter

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear County Commissioners,

While I do not live in Palm Harbor (Safety Harbor resident), my family and I have participated and benefited in many activities hosted by and/or at the Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Rec.

When my daughters Girl Scout Troop (Wai Lani Service Unit in Palm Harbor) needed a space to host our meetings, we were welcomed by the Palm Harbor CSA. My children ran the fields of local parks and played their soccer seasons on the fields. We participated in early voting at the CSA a couple of years as our local early voting site.

We have visited and enjoyed many of the programs designed for children and families at the Palm Harbor Library. I have participated in several of the non-profit volunteer recruitment fairs at the Palm Harbor Library.

These services support not only Palm Harbor residents, but the greater community. They create a space for children, families, nonprofit organizations and professionals, senior adults, and others to connect.

It's important that funding remains intact to allow these services to flourish. Listen to your constituents who benefit from these services. We come with genuine love for these services without our own personal agendas at play.

Thank you,

Melissa Moré

Eres, Christian

From: kristine allen <ksdepner@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 9:40 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: NO on Millage Rate Reduction for East Lake

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Commissioner Eggers:

It has come to my attention that the county is considering reducing the millage rate for the Palm Harbor and East Lake entities as well as the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative. Is it true that the reduction would be less than \$1/ month for homeowners for a loss of \$110,000 to East Lake Community Library? This seems like a horrible mistake.

We are East Lake residents and the library has been an integral part of our lives since we moved here 18 years ago. I raised my kids on storytime at ELCL, then weekly trips for their pick of children's books to read. What a world it opened up to them! They both attended Cypress Woods Elementary and we often would park at the library and walk to and from school. The library was always active with kids and parents. After school activities are offered regularly, but sometimes kids are there just to study. It is a comfort to know kids have a safe space in our neighborhood to focus on their work and on their future.

ELCL provides so many resources to all ages of our community. The staff is extremely knowledgeable and welcoming. The schedule of events is always impressive. After Ms. Lois took over as director, we have watched it grow in size, services, and popularity. One could argue it is the heart of our community. If anything, I would vote for INCREASED funding to continue to help it grow.

Please do NOT approve this millage rate reduction and continue to support the great things East Lake Community Library are doing for our area.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kristine Allen

Eres, Christian

From: Barbara Mellen <bmellen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 9:06 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Public Library Services District & Palm Harbor Community Services Funding

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioner Eggers

I am writing to you in support of fully funding both the Pinellas Public Library Services District and the Palm Harbor Community Services Fund, especially the Palm Harbor Library.

My name is Barbara Mellen and I am a resident of Palm Harbor. I moved to Palm Harbor in 2015, shortly after my now 8 year old son was born. One of the first places I sought out was the library. The Palm Harbor Library quickly became a refuge. I would take my then 1 year old son to the library so he could play in the children's section while I sat safely hiding from my abusive husband. While we didn't always check out books, we had a safe place to go after work. When I left my husband, it was a place I could go and read stories to my son without spending money, and still let him play with the toys. We always brought a book home, either for me or for him. The librarians never judged me or told me I was staying too long. They always helped find a book, or when I needed entertainment for long drives, an audio book or game for my son.

My son was so excited when he could finally write his name and get his very own library card! Even better, when he was old enough for the maker space! He proudly listened to the rules and agreed to him. Even now at 8 years old, he loves the library. He doesn't love to read, in fact he struggles due to his dyslexia, but he loves stories! When the children's section has a Pokemon display, he is in heaven! Every time we go, he asks for coins to put in the donation container at the front.

For me, this library is a place I can always find the book I'm looking for, or request it be transferred from another branch. I'm a Girl Scout Service Unit Cookie person, and I've used the library space so many times when meeting with individual troop cookie parents to train them on computer aspects of cookie season. The staff never turned me away, never told me I was doing anything wrong and created a haven for one who needed it.

Palm Harbor Parks and Rec has also been an amazing space. I attend various programs there, they let friends host activities for children of all abilities, and host so many Girl Scout events!!

These two organizations not only deserve all the money they requested, but in reality they deserve more! I would argue that they are a huge part of creating a safe and crime free environment in Palm Harbor and should receive a couple hundred thousand from the Sheriff's budget, which approximately 50% of the county budget. He won't miss it where as they will use it to the maximum degree!

Please fully fund the Pinellas Public Library Services District and the Palm Harbor Community Services Agency.

Thank you
Barbara Mellen
2908 Shannon Cir

Palm Harbor, FL 34684

--

With Regards,
Barbara

Eres, Christian

From: Wendy Hoy <wendy.hoy@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 9:02 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: East Lake Library

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi, I am respectfully asking that you do not reduce the funding to the East Lake Library! They have incredible programs that I attend, art shows, all kinds of things that help the community, aside from fabulous books. The staff is wonderful, and we really don't want to have anything cut. Please vote to save these funds and thank you so much!

Wendy Hoy
320 Cypress Creek Circle Oldsmar Florida Sent from my iPhone

Eres, Christian

From: Sherri Stinson <sherri@stinsonlegal.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 9:01 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Urgent Appeal to Preserve Funding for Palm Harbor Library

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioners:

As a graduate of Leadership Pinellas, a resident of Palm Harbor and a local business owner, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed budget cuts for our cherished local library.

Our library is an invaluable community resource that plays a vital role in the lives of many residents, including my own children, ages 6 and 12. The library offers so many services that enhance our quality of life and provide essential educational and recreational opportunities. In fact, we are at the library multiple times a week to pick books. My youngest child, on average, reads 3-5 books a day. During the summer, she read as many as 8-10 books a day courtesy of the Palm Harbor Library.

My children have been going to the children's section since they were old enough to hold a book. The children's librarian, Ms. Chris, has helped my children select age appropriate books, made wonderful recommendations based on their interests and has helped foster their love of learning. We are there so much that we consider her an extended family member. My children, as a result of regularly accessing the children's section, consistently read 2-3 grade levels above where they are expected to be for their ages. In addition, they consistently score high marks for MAP testing. Programs such as Music with Mar helped my children to develop a love and appreciation for music.

The Palm Harbor Library is the heart of our community. As a member of the Palm Harbor Chamber of Commerce, I have attended meetings here where local businesses have come together to help each other. The library is a hub for people of all ages, backgrounds, and interests. Our library is not just a place to check out books. There are a variety of educational programs, access to technology, a safe space for youth that offers programs such as MakerSpace, and a place where residents can engage in lifelong learning. Here are a few reasons why preserving the library's funding is crucial:

Education: The library is a cornerstone of educational support for our community. It provides access to books, digital resources, and research materials that are instrumental for students of all ages. Many residents rely on the library literacy programs and continuing education.

Digital Inclusion: In today's digital age, the library bridges the digital divide by offering free computer and internet access to those who may not have these resources at home. Cutting funding would hinder access to information and limit opportunities for online learning, job searches, and communication.

Community Engagement: Our library hosts numerous community events, such as summer programs, lectures, workshops, and cultural programs. These activities foster a sense of togetherness and provide a safe space for social interaction. In fact, the library is so valuable that it regularly fills the entire parking lot.

Support for Local Businesses: Small business owners and entrepreneurs often rely on the library. The library's services contribute to the economic vitality of our community. The Palm Harbor Chamber regularly hosts events here where we can rely on each other for networking, questions and camaraderie.

Early Childhood Development: The library offers early literacy programs and story hours that play a crucial role in preparing young children for school. These programs promote reading readiness and are vital for our youngest community members.

Access to Information: Many residents, especially seniors, rely on the library as a trusted source of information for health, legal matters, and other essential topics.

Cutting funding would limit their access to these vital resources. I understand that in today's economy, budget decisions can be challenging. However, I implore you to consider the long-term consequences of reducing funding for our library. The benefits it provides to our community far outweigh the budgetary concerns. In fact, investing in the library is an investment in the future of our county and its economic vitality.

I urge you to explore alternative ways to balance the budget without negatively impacting our library's services. This institution is an essential pillar of our community, and any reduction in its funding will undoubtedly have a profound and adverse effect on our residents. I hope that you will listen to the voices of your constituents who rely on the library and consider the broader impact of your budget decisions on our community's well-being. Please make the preservation of our local library's funding a top priority and ensure that it continues to thrive as a valuable resource for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I hope that you will take this appeal into serious consideration as you make your budget decisions.

Sincerely,
Sherri Stinson

--

Sherri M. Stinson, Esq.
Law Offices of Sherri M. Stinson, P.A.
2945 Alt. 19, Suite A
Palm Harbor, FL 34683
727-351-7057
stinsonlegal.com
FBN 716456

"Our firm helps people answer the question who will take care of me and my family when I can't?"

****Please note as of August 1st our office is located at 2945 Alt. 19, Ste. A, Palm Harbor, FL 34683****

Eres, Christian

From: Keri W <gopursuit17@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 8:40 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Palm Harbor Library and Rec Center

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

To the Board of Commissioners:

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the potential budget cuts facing our local library. As a dedicated member of our community and an avid patron of the library, I believe that our library is an invaluable resource that should be preserved and adequately funded.

Our library plays a crucial role in our community by providing access to knowledge, promoting literacy, and serving as a hub for learning and cultural enrichment. It serves as a place where individuals of all ages can access books, digital resources, educational programs, and a welcoming space for studying and personal growth. Our library is not just a repository of books; it is a center for community engagement and development.

Budget cuts can have a severe impact on the quality and accessibility of services provided by our library. Reduced funding can lead to a reduction in the library's operating hours, the acquisition of new books and materials, and the ability to offer educational programs and events. This, in turn, will limit the opportunities for our community members to expand their knowledge, pursue their interests, and enhance their skills.

Moreover, the library plays a vital role in bridging the digital divide in our community. It provides essential internet access, computer resources, and assistance to those who may not have access to these services at home. In today's digital age, this function is more critical than ever, especially for students and job seekers who rely on the library's resources for their academic and professional pursuits.

I understand that budget decisions can be challenging, and tough choices must be made. However, I urge you to consider the long-term benefits that a well-funded library brings to our community. The library is an investment in our future, ensuring that our community remains educated, informed, and connected.

I kindly request that you reconsider any proposed budget cuts to our local library and explore alternative avenues for maintaining or increasing its funding. Our library is a cornerstone of our community, and its continued vitality is essential for our collective growth and well-being.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. I look forward to your positive response and your continued support for our local library.

Sincerely,
Keri Woloszynski
Palm Harbor resident since 2014

Eres, Christian

From: Holly Wells <holly.e.wells@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 8:40 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Cc: jinelle@phcsa.net
Subject: Please keep library funding

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County Commissioner,

Please do not reduce funding for Palm Harbor Library.

I've been a citizen of Palm Harbor for the past 9 years. I'm a working mother of children age 9 and 6. We visit the library weekly. It's a vital resource in our family. When money was tight - we used passes from the library to celebrate my child's birthday at Great Explorations. When I was a stay at home Mom, visits to the story hour helped break up our week. We have gone to visit Santa and My Little Pony party events. I know the librarians by name - Ms. Marissa is AMAZING as well as the rest of the children's library staff. When I needed to use audio books for work, my librarian showed me how to use the Libby app. I've gotten magazines from the store to make a collage for school. During COVID we took home crafts that kept my children amused when I desperately needed help. My daughter checks out a dozen or more books at a time - far more than I could buy without going broke. Recently my son has discovered Dogman books which has changed his attitude about reading and switch it from me begging him to read, to him ASKING me to go to the library for more books. He now reads for almost an hour at a time.

After our schools and our roads, the Palm Harbor Library is the single government resource that I use most. It's so important in our lives. Please keep them funded. I would be happy to discuss it or give a testimonial if it is helpful.

Photos: COVID take home crafts (PHL), my daughter having quality interaction with Mrs. Claus (PHL), Drive through Santa during COVID (PHL), art in the craft corner (PHL), and giving back with holiday donations (PHL).

Best regards,

Holly Roseski,
Palm Harbor, Florida.
727-418-4821
holly.e.wells@gmail.com











Holly E. W. Roseski
holly.e.wells@gmail.com
www.linkedin.com/in/hroseski/en

Eres, Christian

From: mahousman@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 7:34 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Proposed Budget Cuts
Importance: High

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Respectfully, if the proposed cuts are approved at next week's public hearing, the East Lake Community Library alone would lose approximately \$110,000 from this year's budget while East Lake Recreation would lose approximately \$73,000. This would have a crippling effect on programs and services.

This cannot be a logical solution as the millage rate reduction would mean an average of less than \$1/month from homeowner's trim notices but would have a huge negative impact on our libraries and recreation.

Families all over the county rely heavily on the services provided by their local library and the cost of these cuts to the community would be so much greater than can be measured on paper. We are all for fiscal responsibility however, we urge you to seriously reconsider if this is the way to achieve it.

Mary Ann & Mark Housman

Eres, Christian

From: Karen Blaha <kblaha74@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 7:22 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Continued funding for Palm Harbor Library

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>
>
> I would like to address the issue of continued funding for the Palm Harbor Library.
>
> The library is a cultural, historical, and educational resource for the Palm Harbor community, offering meaningful, diverse programs for residents of all ages, from the very young to the elderly. Patrons are entertained, comforted, and inspired by the activities this library provides. Having utilized libraries in several other states, I have found the Palm Harbor Library to offer exceptional service.
>
> I respectfully request that the Commission not act to reduce funding. "The very existence of libraries affords the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man."
>
> Thank you,
>
> Karen Blaha
>
> 304 Crosswinds Dr.
> Palm Harbor, FL 34683
>
>
> Sent from my iPad

Eres, Christian

From: christy rieben <riebenc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 6:50 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Recreation

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon County Commissioners,

I'm hearing that you are considering cutting the funds for two amazing programs in our community, The Palm Harbor Library and The Palm Harbor Recreation Center. As a resident of Palm Harbor, I am honestly so upset by this thought. When I think about how both of these establishments have positively effected the lives of myself and my family, I can only think of what a bad idea this would ultimately be for our community.

The children's programs at the library most definitely helped to shape my kids into the incredible readers they are today. These programs are an asset to our community. The Palm Harbor Recreation Center is where my daughter learned ballet, my son learned karate, they both learned gymnastics and my daughter has been meeting with her Girl Scout Troop for the last 6 years! We've come together as a community there, we've had fun and learned in this building. It has helped shape our lives. It's absolutely something that needs to be nurtured and nourished. Please give it the funds and support it deserves as it has nurtured and nourished my family for years.

Please take my words into consideration. What these community organizations mean to people is more than what you can put a price tag on.

Thank you,

Christy Livingston

Teacher, Mom and Palm Harbor resident

Eres, Christian

From: Susan Fisher <susanfisher44@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 6:44 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Budget cuts to Palm Harbor Library and Recreation

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

I'm writing as a resident of Palm Harbor, a parent of two boys, and a teacher in Pinellas County Schools. I moved to Florida in 1994. My boys who are now young adults grew up in Palm Harbor. They attended summer events at the Palm Harbor Library. They played for the Palm Harbor Recreation soccer teams, baseball teams and football teams. As a Physical Education Teacher, I know the value that these programs had on my boys and continue to have on my family and my community. To learn that Mr. Latvala proposed cuts to these programs in the Palm Harbor and East Lake areas, quite frankly disgusts me. We want our children and our community to have a sense of belonging and pride. These programs do more to bring our community together than most other programs. We don't have fancy Pop Warner football fields like many do in cities. We don't have elaborate community centers. What we do have are people willing to provide quality programs to our community members with limited resources. Resources that need to come from the Pinellas County Commission budget should not be cut for these programs. I urge you to think about the children and the community of Palm Harbor and to support the programs as they are needed in our community.

Thank you,

Susan J Fisher

Resident, mother and teacher in Pinellas County.

Eres, Christian

From: Marsha Ross <nikkel98@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 6:30 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Library Budget Cuts

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

My family LOVES the Palm Harbor library and the many programs, classes, and entertainments offered there.

Please do not vote to cut or eliminate funding for our library!

We citizens enjoy and need the library.

Thank you for your consideration.

Marsha Ross
107 15th St
Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Eres, Christian

From: Emily Paul <ejanecek83@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 6:29 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Appreciation for the Outstanding Work on Palm Harbor Library and Parks & Recreation

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing to express my heartfelt appreciation for the exceptional work you and your team have been doing in maintaining and enhancing the Palm Harbor Library and the Parks and Recreation facilities in our community. As a resident of Palm Harbor, I have had the privilege of experiencing the positive impact of these services firsthand, and I wanted to take a moment to commend your efforts.

When I first moved to Palm Harbor, I had the opportunity to utilize the services of the East Lake Library as a proctoring center for my online university exams. The staff at the library, particularly the librarian, were exceptionally kind and accommodating. Their support played a significant role in my educational journey, and I found myself returning to the library every week. It was particularly noteworthy that the East Lake Library was the only location in Pinellas County offering such services, making it an invaluable resource for me.

Last year, my husband and I upgraded from our Palm Harbor apartment to our first home within the community. We transitioned to the other Palm Harbor Library, and the timing couldn't have been better, as my library card had expired. As an avid reader, I frequently check out books from the library and often use their audiobooks while enjoying the beautiful parks and trails with my spouse and our puppy in Palm Harbor.

One of the main reasons we chose to buy a home in this wonderful community was because of the wide range of events and services it offers. We eagerly anticipate starting our own family next year, and it would be deeply disheartening if funding for these invaluable resources were to be cut just as we embark on this new chapter of our lives. We have great hopes of participating in the "Baby and Me" storytime sessions with our child and eventually enrolling them in the Park and Recreation leagues, just as we did when we were children ourselves. These programs are not only entertaining but also crucial in providing wholesome activities for the younger members of our community.

I want to convey my utmost appreciation for the hard work and dedication that goes into making these events and services run smoothly. Your efforts have helped create a vibrant and positive

atmosphere in Palm Harbor, and they undoubtedly play a significant role in enhancing the quality of life for all residents.

Once again, thank you for your outstanding work in maintaining and improving the Palm Harbor Library and Parks and Recreation facilities. I hope that these essential community resources will continue to receive the support they deserve, ensuring that future generations, including our own, can enjoy all the benefits they provide.

Sincerely,

Emily Paul

3072 Windridge Oaks Drive, Palm Harbor, FL

Eres, Christian

From: tvanderhorn@tampabay.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 6:20 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: BUDGET CUTS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

According to the information I received from my local library, the proposed budget cut to the libraries budget will amount to less than \$12 per annum to the average tax bill, The library system is a vital service for the overall quality of life in Pinellas County. Surly there must be a less important service that can function without my \$12.

I know that you are busy, but as a tax payer and a registered voter, I would appreciate an explanation as to the wisdom of this decision.

Sincerely,

Ted Van Der Horn
2626 13th Court
Palm Harbor, FL 34686-3844
727-784-7385

Eres, Christian

From: Cheryl Morales
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 6:13 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Cc: Burton, Barry; Klug, Della
Subject: Thank you for your support!

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Thank you for your continued support of Public Libraries in Pinellas County!

In the 9 years I have served as Executive Director for the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, this is the first year that a tentative roll-back of the .5 millage rate was considered.

The services and support provided to our community by PPLC and its Member Libraries are truly second to none. By working together, each library provides gold-star service to their surrounding community, the unincorporated residents, and residents of cities without libraries.

Additionally, PPLC's Member Libraries support the countywide services for the blind, deaf, and handicapped residents in Pinellas County.

Thank you in advance for supporting the full .5 millage rate next week, when the final vote takes place.

Please reach out if you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting or tour of the PPLC and Talking Book Library facility at 1330 Cleveland Street.

Stay well,
Cheryl

Cheryl Morales | *Executive Director*

Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, Deaf Literacy Center, and Talking Book Library for the Blind

1330 Cleveland Street | Clearwater FL 33755

727.441.8408

<http://www.pplc.us> | [Facebook](#)



Eres, Christian

From: Joan Walko <joanwalko1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 5:52 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: FY Budget Funding

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

I understand that Scott & Latvala are trying to defund Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor CSA Parks and Recreation. Their budgets were not fully approved at your meeting on the Sept 7.

This is over \$160,000 which will adversely affect staffing and the amazing programming opportunities for the community they provide.

In addition there are affordable housing and hurricane clean up issues that are also in need of your attention and funding.

Residents expect your support and vote on the millage rate and a fully-funded budget.

All eyes will be on all commissioners voted at the Sept 19 budget meeting as to whether you will stand up to fulfill your job as commissioner for all citizens of Pinellas County or resort to petty partisan politics to withheld from the budget. To withhold such a de minimis amount from the entire budget to 'send a message' of some sort over a legitimate display the library had during Pride month - one of the many groups they showcase during the year is petty and beneath your office.

Joan

Joan Walko, SPHR, SHRM-SCP
1103 Kensington Court
Safety Harbor, FL 34695
(410) 499-9586

Eres, Christian

From: Karen Cramer <kcramer618@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 5:44 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Do NOT support the mileage reduction bill for libraries!

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Our local library in Palm Harbor is essential for the families and other residents - including my 92 year old mother! PLEASE do not pass the mileage reduction bill. This is NOT the place to decrease spending!

Karen Cramer
4427 Clairson Ct.
Palm Harbor, FL

Eres, Christian

From: Megan Colby <megan.c.colby@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 5:41 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Funding for Pinellas County libraries and community resources

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Hello Commissioner Eggers -

As your constituent, I strongly support the approval of the millage and budget for all Pinellas County Libraries and CSAs within the purview of the Pinellas County Commission. I'm sure you are aware that public libraries and community services are vital and valuable resources, therefore we should not be defunding or cutting their budgets. Please vote 'Yes' to approve the final millage and budget when it comes up for a vote.

Thank you,
Megan Colby
Dunedin, FL

Eres, Christian

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of plinfl at yahoo.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 5:16 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Result #28506326

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

This information is a result of a Pinellas County Online Customer Service form submission from the Pinellas County web site.

Direction of Inquiry	Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4
Subject	Budget cuts for libraries and Parks & Rec dept
Message	It would be a great loss to the community to lose any of the valued service and classes that our community libraries off each month. Both adults and children benefit so very much being offered these valued services.
Your Name	Patricia Ann Lynch
Your Street Address	2146 Hartford Way
City/Unincorporated County	Clearwater
Zip Code	33763
Your Phone Number	7276435949
Your Email Address	plinfl@yahoo.com

This email was sent to deggers@pinellascounty.org as a result of a form being completed.
[Click here](#) to report unwanted email.



Eres, Christian

From: noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 5:07 PM
To: BCC Agenda Comments

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Live Form

Topic budget cuts

BCC Agenda Date 9-19-2023

Your Stand on the Issue

Comments As so many I and my family use the services of our libraries throughout the year. Please do not consider reducing their budget as it would be a disservice to our community . Thank you for your time

Citizen Name Patricia Lynch

Address 2146 Hartford Way
FL 33763
United States|US

Phone +17276435949

Email plinfl@yahoo.com

Eres, Christian

From: noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 4:58 PM
To: BCC Agenda Comments

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Live Form

Topic Palm Harbor Library Budget

BCC Agenda Date 9-19-2023

Your Stand on the Issue Support

Comments I am writing in support of FULLY funding the Palm Harbor Library. The services, staff, and selection are impeccable, and my family uses their resources multiple times a week. They are a significant resource for our community and they have my full-throated support in funding their excellent work. The return on investment in our community is incalculable. Anything less than a fully funded budget is unwise and unacceptable.

Citizen Name Kristen Anderson

Address 2519 Islander Ct
Palm Harbor, FL 34683
United States|US

Phone

Email kristenscoggan@gmail.com

Eres, Christian

From: Valerie Merimee <merimee@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 4:48 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Motion to cut millage to Palm Harbor Community Services

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Commissioner Eggers,

I am writing to ask you not to pass the motion to cut millage to Palm Harbor Community Services. This will mean a crippling effect on hours, staffing, services and programs.

Thank you for your kind consideration to support these very important services.

Valerie Merimee

Eres, Christian

From: Kristen Anderson Scoggan <kristenscoggan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 4:47 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Palm Harbor Library Budget

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Pinellas County Board of Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of my family and the community members of Northern Pinellas and Palm Harbor. I live in a community just north of the Palm Harbor Library at the corner of Alt 19 and Alderman. The Palm Harbor library is such an important part of my family's daily life. Just to name a few of the things we adore about this community library...

- The library has such an excellent selection of books and using the Pinellas transfer system we are able to get books from all over the community sent to our library to check out. We use Palm Harbor Library as our hub, as it is a close and incredible resource.
- The library has beautifully curated displays in each section of the library, helping to direct my family to current events and important cultural and historical moments. We love the work the librarians put into their displays.
- We love the maker's space, such a great way for kids and adults to explore their creative sides. This has been invaluable to my family.
- The drive-up pick-up window for library holds has saved me on more than one occasion, when my child is sick, or forgot her shoes or we are on the go we know we can pick up and drop off our library books with ease.
- My daughter absolutely adores the garden area outside the library. She asks to go daily. The new musical instrument/sculpture pieces are one of her absolute favorite local activities.
- My local book club has also used their book club packages to easily get books to each of our members in a timely fashion. Honestly such a great service.
- We love the museum ticket checkouts and the board game checkouts. This library is constantly expanding itself, allowing members to use and interact with it in a variety of ways.
- The library staff always goes above and beyond with their assistance and events. The service here is absolutely stellar.

All of the above things are just a handful of ways my family interacts with the Palm Harbor Library. We find these services to be invaluable to our family and I know they provide countless more services for all ages. Our community depends on this resource.

I am asking you to fully fund this incredible resource. Honestly, you should be throwing budget dollars at this community resource, the return on investment in our community is immense. Anything less than the full amount requested is simply unacceptable in the eyes of our family and community.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kristen Anderson

Eres, Christian

From: Danielle Premo <daniellepremo@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 4:43 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: City Budget

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello! I have lived in Palm Harbor my whole life and now I am raising my two sons here too. My youngest attends a gifted school and we frequent the Palm Harbor library once a month for him to stay up on his reading and I am grateful as he reads about one -two books a week and it would be very costly to buy all the books myself.

Both my children attend Palm Harbor Rec center camps during the summer and play sports on the fields.

Please reconsider limiting the budget in this area. It would be horrible to see these things disappear. Our community needs a library and our kids need the parks and fields.

Thank you.

Danielle Premo

Eres, Christian

From: Julia Heinke <jheinke90@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 4:33 PM
To: Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Long, Janet C; Scott, Brenda D; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen
Subject: Do NOT defund the Palm Harbor Library

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Hello,

I am a Pinellas County resident from Palm Harbor. I recently heard about Chris Latvala's attempt to defund the Palm Harbor Library. Latvala's complaint is ridiculously stupid and a waste of time. I find it disturbing that Latvala is such a fascist bigot that he can't tolerate even hearing about a library pride display without being triggered. It is politically motivated bullying and I am appalled that his publicity stunt is even being entertained as policy at all. Shame on him and anyone that supports him will definitely lose my vote.

DO NOT DEFUND THE LIBRARY!

--

Julia Heinke
Art Portfolio: juliaheinkeart.com
(727) 742-7659

Eres, Christian

From: Winna Morrin <winna@tampabay.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 4:25 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: NO to budget cuts in PH Library & Parks and Rec

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Surely what we are hearing in our Palm Harbor community is a mistake. Surely you have not suggested to defund our ONLY library in Palm Harbor as well as Palm Harbor Parks & Rec. Do you think of our children and what they have already been through socially the past few years?

Personally, our family has benefited from both the Palm Harbor Library and CSA Palm Harbor and Parks and Rec over the last 25 years. Our children NEED these programs! You cannot cut things like Little League, Pickle Ball, youth camps, and reading programs. Whose ignorant, terrible idea was this? All 3 of our boys grew up playing Palm Harbor Little League. They learned very important life lessons such as discipline, self control, conflict resolution, manners, lifelong friendships, etc... We went weekly to the Palm Harbor Library, and they learned the love of books and reading. Two of our boys got their first jobs through Palm Harbor Parks & Rec.

Supposedly you want to help the people in our community because inflation is so high. At the end of the day, it would come out to about \$20/year. Is it worth it at the expense of our youth??? I'm appalled, and usually I am very supportive of our community. Our youth have been through ENOUGH already. They need these interactions, and CSA Palm Harbor has worked incredibly hard over the years to develop diverse programs for all ages. It would be devastating to our community.

I am the founder of an amazing local nonprofit organization called The LYN Fund, Inc. We assist local cancer patients financially while they are in treatment. We have our meetings (and have had past events) at CSA Palm Harbor. They are a PILLAR within our community, and I'm still sitting here in disbelief that you want to cut their budgets. For the first time, I am absolutely disgraced and embarrassed by learning this information. I certainly hope you change your tune on this one. Don't mess with our kids!

Winna Morrin

The LYN Fund, Inc.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flinkprotect.cudasvc.com%2Furl%3Fa%3Dhttps%253a%252f%252fwww.theLYNfund.org%26c%3DE%2C1%2CSoUgPfr9ysPnOinwlhgeN2QyuFyB0qJXx8tzYkvcyTeXSeC7QPVaQgqDUaKqsPU66ZUoJqL7gZ-xa8NaraeaYsEVNMWIrL-HItA0kvblgUydZ7qUIsoNsYw%2C%26typo%3D1&data=05%7C01%7Cdeggers%40pinellas.gov%7C2dbaf8b76bad4f0c01d008dbb3ce5eb4%7C32ee18fa4c746ffaf408ed605642745%7C0%7C0%7C638301471159954837%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6ABjUcqbbMZYA14hmCcR8ltKdrbuvV7If%2BUdbsHZE8A%3D&reserved=0>

Sent from my iPad

Eres, Christian

From: Marilyn Satinoff <esatinof@tampabay.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 4:14 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Palm Harbor Library and Rec

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,
I have lived in Palm Harbor for over 40
years. I love this library and all its program!
Please do not cut their budget. The families in this area depend on this wonderful library. This library and the Rec
programs are what make this community great.
Don't destroy them!
Marilyn Satinoff

Sent from my iPhone

Eres, Christian

From: Angelique Riling <jariling@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 4:09 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Palm Harbor Library funding

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Pinellas County Commissioners,

This is Autumn Riling, I am 12 years old and I love going to the Palm Harbor library. This year I won the summer reading program and I won a graphic novel series, a Pete The Cat painting, beading kit, more books and the best was a book that they got signed at an event they had earlier in the year.

Their garden is so pretty and I hope they can keep adding plants to it, and they can only do this with the funding that you provide.

I enjoy doing the grab and go crafting kits they offer. We also created our own home library by purchasing books, dvd's and cd's from their library store.

I also enjoy participating in the giving tree at Christmas time.

I hope that you can continue to fund all these fun activities.

Thank you

Autumn Riling

Eres, Christian

From: Sue Gottscho <suegottscho@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 3:45 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Palm Harbor Library

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Pinellas County Commissioners:

I understand that you may be considering reducing the budget for the Palm Harbor Library. As a lifelong Pinellas County resident and a Palm Harbor resident since 1990 this troubles me! I visit the library nearly every week and appreciate all the resources it offers. I will soon be retiring and expect to use even more of their facilities.

I understand that the Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation Dept. budget may be on the chopping block as well. Please do not reduce these budgets that offer such valuable programs for north Pinellas residents of all ages!

Thank you,

Susan M. Gottscho
4887 West Breeze Circle
Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Eres, Christian

From: Judith Burr <jpmburr@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 3:39 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Reduction in the millage rate for East Lake & Palm Harbor & PPLC

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Commissioner Eggers,

As an ex-chair of the PPLC for 2 years, I was shocked to hear that the Board of County Commissioners is considering a reduction in the millage rate for East Lake & Palm Harbor & PPLC.

Long ago, the rate was approved at a higher millage but the county never increased to the approved level. That prior approval had the support of the community. Now, BOCC is thinking of reducing when the funds are need so badly in each library with the high inflation we are all experiencing.

Libraries are a learning place for every age group. From infants to senior, each library supports each group with vital programs. I love the fact that you see 6 months in the library learning and I love seeing library staff delivering books to home bound individuals. Every time I venture into a libraries through the county, I see the library filled with people. Whether it's 9 in the morning or 5 in the afternoon or 7 at night - there is always something going on in Pinellas libraries.

My home library of East Lake Community Library is filled with so much - teens teaching seniors how to work their new iphone or librarian helping an individual discover an ancestor thru genealogy research or a book club discussing a biography - it all happening but could face cuts due to your decrease of the millage.

Please rethink the cut.

I know I will be on the front line in the next election for every Commissioners who supports keeping the same millage or even increasing it. How come others get increases - why not libraries!!!

Sincerely,

Judith P Burr
3789 Darston Street
Palm Harbor, FL 34685

Eres, Christian

From: Mark Sanders <directorelr@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 3:25 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Millage rates

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Hello Commissioners,

I wish to thank you for the support that you have always given to PHCSA and its four entities. Each one of us has worked hard to provide quality recreational and library services to our community. We as directors of our facilities try to keep you informed about our services, needs, and plans for improvement. The proposed reduction of millage rates would have a major negative effect on the services we provide to the residents of East Lake and Palm Harbor. I ask that you vote against decreasing the current millage rates for the entities of PHCSA. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Best regards, Mark

Mark Sanders
Director
East Lake Recreation

Eres, Christian

From: Elizabeth Allen <lizallen1116@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 3:22 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Latvala, Christopher; Eggers, Dave; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Palm Harbor Library Millage

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you after reviewing video footage of the September 7th meeting in which Commissioner Latvala singled out and voted against funding for Palm Harbor Library and Parks and Recreation, with support from Commissioner Scott.

As a resident of Palm Harbor and mother to a child that frequently uses our library services, to say I am devastated to see this ugly act of politics is an understatement. The Palm Harbor Library has been an incredible resource for our family, providing an endless supply of books for my voracious little reader, numerous family events we always enjoy and appreciate, and friendly, hardworking, and welcoming staff who are a cornerstone of our community. To think of them losing such a substantial source of funding is a travesty. By denying this source of funding, you are taking away valuable resources and opportunities from children and families in our community. In times like these where so many people are struggling financially, community libraries like PHL provide so much that we could otherwise not afford.

You can expect that many, many Pinellas county residents are being made aware of this situation and will be watching your participation in this upcoming vote. There will be much more active participation to replace the seats of commissioners whose values and ethics we cannot support at the next election. Please do the right thing and support the library and parks & rec by voting to pass the proposed millage rate and fully fund their budget.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Allen

3523 Hampshire Court #202
Palm Harbor, FL 34685

Eres, Christian

From: Aol <bn4968@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 3:13 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Palm Harbor Library Budget cuts

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Commissioner Eggers

It has come to my attention that on September 19, the Pinellas County Commission will be cutting budgets to my library. Has my voting for Pennies for Pinellas become meaningless? If that's the case, I will vote no on the next ballot. Plus, as a tax payer, I want to see a complete breakdown on where my tax dollars are going.

It wouldn't even surprise me that the commissioners who reside south of Ulmerton, still think Palm Harbor is some is some little obscure place with little contribution for tax dollars.

What new projects are being funded at the expense of my library?

Please do not support cutting their funding.

Thank you

Barbara Nelson

Palm Harbor

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

Eres, Christian

From: Greenleaf, Kim
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 3:07 PM
To: BCC Agenda Comments
Cc: Stillo, Tony
Subject: Sept. 19 BCC meeting, Agenda item #33 (budget)
Attachments: Budget Review ; Please fully fund PHCSA; Fwd: Palm Harbor Library; PHL Needs Your Help!!!; PHL; Palm harbor budget; Regarding Palm Harbor Library; Palm Harbor Library and Parks & Rec budget; Palm Harbor Library and Parks & Rec; Palm Harbor Library; PH Library and PH Parks and Recreation; Please do not cut the budget of the Palm Harbor library. We depend on the services it provides for our community. Thank you.; Palm Harbor Library; Budgets for Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation; Don't Cut Funding in Palm Harbor!; Palm Harbor Library funding; Cutting Library Funding; FY24 Millage Rollbacks; Letter of Support for Budget for Palm Harbor Library; Library and Parks and Rec Support; Proposed Budget Cuts; Palm Harbor Library 🙏; Library Funding; Urgent Appeal: Protecting the Heart of Our Community – Preserve Funding for Palm Harbor Library; Library Millage Rate; Please do not cut the Eastlake and Palm Harbor libraries funding

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Attached are emails received to date related to agenda item #33 to be added to the record.

Kimberly H. Greenleaf

Executive Aide to Commissioner Dave Eggers

Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, District 4
315 Court Street, Fifth Floor
Clearwater, FL 33756
727-464-3276 office
kgreenleaf@pinellas.gov

Eres, Christian

From: noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 2:55 PM
To: BCC Agenda Comments

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Live Form

Topic Palm harbor library budget cuts

BCC Agenda Date 9-19-2023

Your Stand on the Issue Oppose

Comments I urge you to protect Palm Harbor Library's budget. It's our sanctuary, a place of cherished memories and growth. My kids learned life skills through programs like Anime Club, Lego clubs, and Perler Partners. Our library is a vital community hub, promoting literacy, bridging the digital divide, and fostering social bonds. Please reconsider any cuts; the library is an investment in our town's future. Your support ensures our children's continued growth and opportunities.

Citizen Name Krysla Ferrell

Address 2796 Teak Drive
Palm Harbor, Florida 34684
United States|US

Phone +17277768225

Email kryslaferrell@gmail.com

Eres, Christian

From: Krysla Ferrell <kryslaferrell@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 2:50 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Urgent Appeal: Protecting the Heart of Our Community – Preserve Funding for Palm Harbor Library

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Sept 12, 2023

Hello,

I am writing to you as a concerned member of the Palm Harbor community to express my heartfelt support for maintaining and even increasing the budget allocation for our beloved Palm Harbor Library. As a resident and a parent, I have personally witnessed the immense value and impact that this library has had on my family's life.

The Palm Harbor Library has been more than just a place for books; it has been our sanctuary, a cornerstone of our community, and a source of countless educational and enriching experiences for my family. I have been bringing my children to this library since they were mere babies, and it has grown to be an integral part of their lives. The staff members have not only been dedicated librarians but have also become friends who know my children by name, watching them grow and nurturing their love for learning.

Our library is a place of cherished memories and endless opportunities. It has been a hub for my children's intellectual growth, introducing them to a world of literature, art, and culture that extends far beyond our household. The library's programs, such as Anime Club, Lego clubs, Art Attack and Perler Partners, have been instrumental in broadening my children's horizons. They have learned valuable life skills like teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving while forging friendships with other young minds. These experiences are priceless and have contributed immensely to their personal development.

It is essential to understand that libraries like Palm Harbor play a vital role in our community. They are not just buildings filled with books but serve as centers for learning, social interaction, and personal growth. Local libraries provide access to resources that many families may not have otherwise, promoting literacy and ensuring that education remains accessible to all. They bridge the digital divide by offering internet access to those who lack it at home, helping with job searches, online education, and countless other essential tasks in the digital age.

Furthermore, libraries serve as hubs for community engagement, fostering a sense of belonging and unity. They host various events and programs that bring people together, enhancing the social fabric of our town. The Palm Harbor Library has become a place where neighbors become friends, and friendships are strengthened through shared experiences.

In light of these facts, I implore you to reconsider any budget cuts that may affect our library's ability to continue providing these invaluable services to our community. The Palm Harbor Library is not just an expense but an investment in the future of our town and the growth of our children. Please consider the positive impact it has on countless lives, including my own family's, when making decisions about its funding.

I want to thank you for your dedication to our community and for taking the time to consider the importance of our local library. I am hopeful that, with your support, we can continue to provide the next generation of Palm Harbor residents with the same enriching experiences and opportunities that have made this library an essential part of our lives.

Sincerely,
Krysla Ferrell
2796 Teak Drive
Palm Harbor, FL 34684

Eres, Christian

From: Savannah Bennett <savannahb17@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 2:49 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Library Funding

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Good afternoon,

I am writing as a citizen of Palm Harbor who loves the library! I utilize the Palm Harbor library on a weekly basis and am thrilled with the programming they provide. Please continue to provide them the funding they need to continue operations as usual. I know there are many people just like me who love the library! In fact, last time I went in on a Saturday, there was a line to get it when they opened!

Thank you for your time.

Savannah Bennett
9 Freshwater Dr.
Palm Harbor 34684

Eres, Christian

From: Beth Higdon <barbiegal57@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 2:47 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Library Millage Rate

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Hello:

As a Palm Harbor resident, I am shocked and dismayed that you would consider cutting the budget for our beloved libraries. There are very few places where one can go on a hot summer day and find peace and quiet and air conditioning while you peruse the library's books and newspapers. The staff have made every effort to develop programs for young children, teens and older citizens, and they are so helpful with any questions or concerns. These libraries are what makes Palm Harbor special. I have utilized the library many times and consider it a hidden gem as a Palm Harbor resident. I would be willing to pay more taxes to keep Palm Harbor a wonderful place to live.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Higdon
2138 Portside Passage
Palm Harbor, FL 34685

Eres, Christian

From: Ann <krava2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 2:45 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Please do not cut the Eastlake and Palm Harbor libraries funding

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Please do not cut the Eastlake and Palm Harbor libraries funding. Both of these libraries provide much needed services to their communities. The programs that these libraries host, like Tai Chi, cooking demonstrations, educational seminars, passport renewals, Medicare assistance, a safe place to gather, etc. are an invaluable asset to the communities. In order for these services to continue and in order to keep both libraries in good shape, the funding levels must be maintained and if possible increased.

Thank you in advance for not cutting the
funding,

Ann B. Palm Harbor, FL

THANK YOU FOR DELETING MY EMAIL ADDRESS or any other e-mail addresses from this message if you plan to forward it. Please use BCC: instead of CC: or TO:.. This will help keep our addresses private, and we might be able to cut down on computer identity theft.

Eres, Christian

From: Julie Rook Gold <julie.rook@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 2:24 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Letter of Support for Budget for Palm Harbor Library

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. [Do not](#) click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Good afternoon.

My name is Julie and I am a resident of Pinellas County. I live in Oldsmar, which is next to Palm Harbor, and my son and I have used the Palm Harbor library many times over the past several years. It is my understanding that the budget for the Palm Harbor Library is at risk for major cuts. I'm writing to support fully funding the library and not instituting any cuts, as it is an important part of the community.

I have an 8 year old son and the library is central to his reading. One of the best library experiences I've ever had was at the Palm Harbor Library. My son was under 5 years old and was particular about books. I told the librarian in the children's section generally what type of books he liked, and she came back with a plethora of amazing options. I believe we left with at least 5 books, all of which he loved. Getting my son to love books is very difficult and they did it easily.

I use the library for my own reading. Reading is important to me, as it is one of the hobbies that I love. Reading calms me and makes me feel happy and grounded. I have also used the library for work. I work remotely and I've used the library as a workspace where I need a change of scenery. I know the library is quiet and safe.

Most recently, the library is partnering with others in the county for a charity drive to help refugee families. I have been looking forward to taking my son out to buy items to donate for these families to show him an example of charity and giving.

Please do not cut the budget for the Palm Harbor Library. It is an important outlet for acceptance, charity, learning, reading, security, etc.

Sincerely,

Julie Gold
Oldsmar, FL

Eres, Christian

From: Amy Baker <igbarun@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 2:18 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: FY24 Millage Rollbacks

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To Whom It May Concern:

I understand budgeting in a large county can be challenging, but specifically targeting rollbacks on Libraries and Community Services in only certain geographical areas of Pinellas makes no sense to this constituent, it appears arbitrary and capricious.

What is Mr. Latvala's business case for the supporting these rollbacks since it was his suggestion? What about Mr. Scott's reason for supporting it? The amounts you are proposing to cut makes little impact to a 3.8B\$ overall budget, but will have large impacts locally.

You have a very active, informed, and connected group watching how each Commissioner proceeds. We expect your vote and support on the millage rate and a fully-funded budget!

I, along with family and friends have gotten many benefits from the Library and Community Services and it would be a shame to see them diminished. The color and richness they provide to the Community deserves to be recognized.

Yours Sincerely,

Amy Baker

Eres, Christian

From: Mary Faith Nicholas <faith.mary@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 2:17 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Cutting Library Funding

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I live in East Lake and am very opposed to cutting any rates that would affect the wonderful East Lake Community library or the PPLC. I will pay extra as a homeowner.

So many people use and love it
And it is a great part of our community. They need a good budget to keep all the great programs they have.

Thank you,
Mary Nicholas
3675 Doral St
Palm Harbor 34685
727-781-7781

Eres, Christian

From: Krystie Epperson <krystieepperson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 1:52 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Don't Cut Funding in Palm Harbor!

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Pinellas County Commissioners,

Please don't cut the funding for the Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks & Recreation budget! My son has played soccer with Soccer Shots for three years now, and he plays at Putnam Park and at Centre Field. It would be devastating to lose those facilities.

He is signed up to start soccer again this week and it would be unfair to displace all the families that count on those facilities that provide a place for the local kids to engage in sports.

Again, please don't cut the funding as these places are important to those of us that live in Palm Harbor.

Krystie Epperson
Palm Harbor Resident

Eres, Christian

From: Kristin Fogarty <kfogarty504@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 1:33 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Justice, Charlie
Subject: Palm Harbor Library funding

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To Whom It May Concern,

It is my understanding that the Board of County Commissioners will be meeting to discuss the proposed budget and continued allotment of funds for the Palm Harbor Library.

I wanted to take the time to email you to share how much of a positive impact the Palm Harbor library has had on my family. My husband and I were both born and raised in Palm Harbor, and utilized the library growing up. Now as a stay-at-home mom to my two young sons (ages 18 months and 3), we make at least one trip to the library each week.

The Palm Harbor library offers wonderful free programs for our youth. Specifically, my children have enjoyed a plethora of their special events, weekly attendance of Mother Goose Rhyme Time, summer reading programs, the 1,000 books before Kindergarten challenge, the summer splashdown hosted by the Palm Harbor FD, among many others. The library is the most underrated

resource in our local communities. Libraries are especially important for our children to develop a love of literacy. Our youth has been impacted so negatively by the Covid 19 pandemic. Many young children, my own son included, have developmental delays that many of these library programs help with (i.e. toddler sign language).

I understand that budgets are not easy, and cuts often need to be made. However, I implore you to consider not decreasing the funding for Palm Harbor Library. Please consider the parents who use their local libraries and the resources they offer as a safe, free, climate-controlled space (especially during the summer months) where their children can learn and grow. Please consider the uptick in today's homeschooled children who use the library events for socialization and structure they are not receiving in regular school. Please consider the negative impacts of the pandemic, and how crucial these programs are for our children who went almost 2 years without them.

I appreciate your time and hope you consider not decreasing the funding for the Palm Harbor Library.

Kind Regards,

Kristin Fogarty

1650 Pond View Ct
Palm Harbor, FL 34683
828-785-2721

Eres, Christian

From: MARGARET BARNEY <gbarney1@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 1:21 PM
To: Long, Janet C; brscott@pnellas.gov; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Library and Parks and Rec Support

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I strongly support the Library and Parks and Recreation, and vote NO to the cuts being made in their budgets!

Sincerely,

Margaret G. Barney

Eres, Christian

From: Bobbe Allen <ballen1156@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 1:10 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Proposed Budget Cuts

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Dear Commissioner

I am a life long member of this community and I am saddened to hear that the Palm Harbor Library and Parks and Rec budget is proposed to be cut. Both of these organizations are beneficial to our entire community and we need to give them our full support, not be cutting their budgets. I hope that you too see the importance of these organizations and you will use your vote to support them.

Sincerely

Bobbe Allen

Sent from my iPad

Eres, Christian

From: Tiffany Kistner <tmkistner@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 1:07 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Palm Harbor Library 🙏

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Commissioner Eggers-

I am a resident of Palm Harbor and I want to voice my concern for potential budget cuts regarding the Palm Harbor Library. My whole family utilizes it, from my special needs son who gets tutoring, to my daughters who have Girl Scout meetings there and use the 'maker space' in the children's library. I even get new books there every 2 weeks. Our community relies on this library for many things. Please do not consider any budget cuts that are on the table. Thank you for your time this this matter.

Tiffany Kistner

Eres, Christian

From: Jack Ryan <jackanna72@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 1:00 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Please do not cut the budget of the Palm Harbor library. We depend on the services it provides for our community. Thank you.

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Eres, Christian

From: Kathleen Capabianco <kcapabia@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 12:59 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Palm Harbor Library

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Commissioner Eggars,

Please be aware of the tremendous asset the Palm Harbor Library is to the Community.

The library serves all ages with materials and activities. The programs the library offers are varied and diverse serving everyone , offering education and entertainment.

Do not cut funding for the library and parks and recreation. Budget cuts are a disservice to the members, users and community.

Kathleen Capabianco

Eres, Christian

From: Jenna Kern <jennaleighkern@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 12:53 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: PH Library and PH Parks and Recreation

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Good afternoon,

I am writing to express my gratitude toward the Palm Harbor Library as well as Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation. I understand that there are talks to defund both of these outstanding community services and I am wholeheartedly against any cuts to their budgets.

My family moved to Palm Harbor in 2019 and have been patrons of both Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation since moving here. We have directly benefited from both the library and the services provided by CSA Palm Harbor in a number of ways.

I cannot say enough positive things about the Palm Harbor Library. This is the most welcoming, positive, and inclusive place. The Children's Department is absolutely phenomenal. Every event they put on is joyous, educational, and fun. My three kids love visiting the library. In the summertime, we are there at least twice a week and during the school year, we are there a few times a month. My kids love looking at all the displays, playing with the toys, and creating all kinds of "masterpieces" in the makerspace. Additionally, the events the library provides for adults are excellent. Our whole family enjoyed their Christmas in July celebration and I have taken a writing course as well. Of course, one of the most important services the library provides is access to books. Before my children started attending Pinellas County Schools, I homeschooled them. When I homeschool, I need a variety of books and the Palm Harbor Library has a great collection. If, for some reason, I can't find a book there or am unable to get one in time from another Pinellas County Library, the librarians always have excellent suggestions for alternatives. No matter the topic of the unit I am teaching, the librarians are knowledgeable and always willing to help find the right book to enhance my curriculum.

CSA Palm Harbor provides the most excellent and affordable summer camps around! My children have been participating in summer camps through CSA for two years now and each summer they learn and grow so much. My children have participated in a wide variety of camps including gymnastics, cooking, fishing, art, and science. The camps are run by a wonderful and caring staff who make each day special for the kids. After attending summer camps, my kids are confident and knowledgeable and, most importantly, happy and fulfilled. Additionally, my daughters are involved in Girl Scouts and have troop meetings at CSA Palm Harbor.

I know that difficult decisions must be made regarding budgets, however, the services provided by the Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation should be left intact. The services that both of these amazing organizations provide the community are invaluable. Both the library and our parks and recreation department make Palm Harbor one of the best communities to live in.

Thank you,

Jenna Kern

Eres, Christian

From: Julitza Perez <julitza.perez19@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 12:45 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Cc: Palm Harbor Library
Subject: Palm Harbor Library

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Good afternoon,

I am worried and concerned that Pinellas County might cut budgets that are assigned to Palm Harbor Library which makes great positive impact to all ages in the community everyday.

Personally ever since I began visiting this library in January 2023, it has brought great benefits to me and my 1 year old son. Thanks to the many events and programs focused on child development my son has made great progress and we have had access to other great services in our community thanks to the orientations received through events at the library. It would be very sad and disappointing if our community loss these benefits that with so much enthusiasm and joy our library provides.

Please reconsider reassigning budget to our Palm Harbor Library so that our community can continue to benefit from the great things they do everyday.

Thank you in advance,

Julitza Perez

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Eres, Christian

From: Lorrie Dairda <Imdairda@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 12:31 PM
To: Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Long, Janet C
Cc: cathyw@phlib.org
Subject: Budgets for Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation

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Dear County Commissioners,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to express my deep appreciation for the essential role that our county libraries (and Parks & Recreation) play in our community and to request your support in ensuring their continued success and growth.

Our libraries are more than just buildings filled with books; they are vital community hubs that provide a wide range of educational, cultural, and social services to residents of all ages. They serve as places of learning, innovation, and connection, offering resources such as books, digital materials, computer access, educational programs, and community events that enrich the lives of our citizens.

However, as the demands on our libraries have grown over the years, they are facing some challenges that require additional support from our county government. Here are a few reasons why I believe it is crucial for us to provide additional funding for our libraries:

Educational Opportunities: Our libraries are a valuable resource for students of all ages, from young children learning to read to adults seeking job training and career development. Increased funding can enhance educational programs, tutoring services, and technology access, providing more opportunities for skill development and lifelong learning.

Digital Divide: The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of digital literacy and internet access. Many in our community rely on library computers and Wi-Fi for online schooling, job searches, and accessing essential services. Additional funding can help bridge the digital divide by improving technology infrastructure and expanding access.

Cultural Enrichment: Libraries are centers for cultural enrichment, offering book clubs, author talks, art exhibits, and more. Increased funding can support a diverse range of cultural programming that enriches the lives of our residents.

Community Engagement: Libraries are places where people from all walks of life can come together to connect, collaborate, and build a sense of community. More resources can help expand community engagement initiatives and create safe spaces for dialogue and interaction.

Economic Development: A well-funded library system can contribute to the economic development of our county by providing resources and support for entrepreneurs, small businesses, and job seekers.

I kindly request that you consider increasing the budget allocation for our county libraries and parks to ensure they continue to thrive and meet the evolving needs of our community. Your support in this endeavor would be a testament to your commitment to the well-being and prosperity of our county's residents.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request. I would be delighted to discuss this matter further with you or provide any additional information you may require. Together, we can ensure that our libraries remain vibrant, accessible, and invaluable assets to our county.

Sincerely,

Loretta Dairda

Pinellas County Resident

Eres, Christian

From: Deborah Freels <freelsda@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 12:15 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Palm Harbor Library and Parks & Rec

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To: Pinellas Board of County Commissioners

As a Pinellas County voter and resident of Palm Harbor, I would like to express my opposition to any cuts to the budget for these important services. Many residents, especially those of us who are retired, rely on the library and the Palm Harbor Centre. Our families with young children need those park facilities and the programs affiliated with them.

I personally am most concerned about the library - as a former English teacher, I worry that so many people need that access!

I'm sure money is tight - it is for all of us, which is another reason why these services are crucial - but I hope you can find other ways to save.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Deborah Freels
840 Maclaren Drive N Unit D
palm Harbor, FL 34684

Eres, Christian

From: Winona Patterson <little nicola@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 12:14 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Palm Harbor Library and Parks & Rec budget

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Hello all,

I have been an employee of the Palm Harbor Library since January 2022, and was an employee of the East Lake Community Library before that. I have worked in libraries for over 20 years and in three different states. My father was a library worker and my mother was a reading teacher, so I like to say libraries and a love for reading are in my blood.

I also serve as the Chair for the Florida Library Association's Advocacy and Legislative Committee, who works at the state governmental level to advocate for libraries and all that they do for your constituents and their communities. Public libraries are much more than books; they serve as a community hub, as polling places, and as catalysts for lifelong learning, among many other noble purposes.

Cutting the Palm Harbor Library's budget would not only affect my family and our livelihood, but would deeply affect the lives of the approximately 60,000 residents of Palm Harbor, Florida, a community which I have grown to love and appreciate.

Thanks for your time,
Winona Patterson

Eres, Christian

From: Amanda Sobel <babyandthebay@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 12:05 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Regarding Palm Harbor Library

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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To whom it may concern,

This memo is in great support of the Palm Harbor Library and the benefit that it has to our community and also to my family. We have utilized the services through the Children's Department over the last year and have experienced such profound growth in our one-year-old through their programming.

The library staff, community members, and volunteers all play a crucial role in so many children's lives on a daily basis. Every visit we take, the children's center is full of zeal and excitement as they experience a world of adventure through creative programming, interactive activities, and a love of books. Cutting the funding for the Palm Harbor Library would greatly take away from a positive place and experience for our youth and future leaders of Palm Harbor.

I implore you to ask yourself if you see the value of defunding the youth and an important pinnacle location in our community.

-Amanda Sobel

Eres, Christian

From: Tracie <tracier127@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 12:00 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Palm harbor budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Hello commissioner,

Cutting the budget for Palm harbor Library and parks and recreation is not acceptable.

Maybe you could stop purchasing Chevy Tahoes for police officers and buy more books and sports games for our kids?

Tracie Schumm
(727)383-0367

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Eres, Christian

From: Linda <lcrawleyartteacher@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 11:55 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: PHL

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Please do not cut funding to the Palm Harbor Library. It is a vital part of our community. It serves all the people in our area regardless of age, ethnicity, socioeconomic backgrounds , etc. They offer so many opportunities for personal and professional growth to all. Sent from my iPhone

Eres, Christian

From: Linda <lcrawleyartteacher@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 11:55 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: PHL

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do not cut funding to the Palm Harbor Library. It is a vital part of our community. It serves all the people in our area regardless of age, ethnicity, socioeconomic backgrounds , etc. They offer so many opportunities for personal and professional growth to all. Sent from my iPhone

Eres, Christian

From: Palm Harbor Library <jinelle@phcsa.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 11:52 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: PHL Needs Your Help!!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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[View in browser](#)



We need your HELP!

Dear Palm Harbor Library Members,

The budgets for the Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation are in jeopardy of being cut by the Pinellas County Board of Commissioners at a meeting on Tuesday, September 19.

We have numerous services that we provide to our members and the community that will have to be reduced or eliminated if our budgets are cut.

How can you help?

At this time, we are asking that members of our community provide as many positive letters to our commissioners to help them better understand the importance of these services that we provide and how they have impacted you and your family.

Your feedback and opinions need to be heard and/or read by the County Commissioners making these decisions. In addition to any letters, you can also provide your comments directly to the Commission at the upcoming meeting on September 19. The listing of their emails is below.

For more information on this upcoming meeting and where it is and how you can attend or view it online, please visit [this website](#).

For more information on participating in the meeting to have your voice and opinion heard on the matter, please visit this website: [Participating in a Board of County Commissioners Meeting - Pinellas County](#)

The email addresses of the County Commissioners are as follows:

JanetCLong@pinellas.gov

brscott@pinellas.gov

cjustice@pinellas.gov

deggers@pinellas.gov

clatvala@pinellas.gov

kpeters@pinellas.gov

rflowers@pinellas.gov

Thank you, as always, for your continued support each and every day,

Cathy Wos

Interim Director

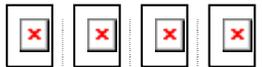
Palm Harbor Library

Palm Harbor Library

2330 Nebraska Ave, Palm Harbor
FL 34683 United States

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Eres, Christian

From: noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 11:45 AM
To: BCC Agenda Comments

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Live Form

Topic Library

BCC Agenda Date

Your Stand on the Issue Oppose

Comments

I would like to state loud and clear that I oppose any budget cuts to the Palm Harbor Library as well as Parks and Recreation. As a matter of fact I believe that the budget should be increased! Our Library is the hub of Palm Harbor. Citizens go there to expand their minds, meet friends, be tutored, learn crafts and use technology not to mention check out books, movies and games. You'd be amazed how many seniors go to use computers and attend classes. Many of the classes and events fill up so fast that people sometimes have to wait for another. It's a cool place where all ages can go and learn. All are welcome and accepted. It's a safe place which is priceless! Children love our children's room which is set up in a way that children can create, learn and have fun without disturbing the rest of the Library. With Parks and Recreation we keep saying we want our children to put down the devices and move yet we want to decrease the budget. Talk of cuts just don't make sense.

Citizen Name Linda Dees

Address 3239 Pine Forest Drive
Palm Harbor, FL 34684
United States|US

Phone +17276445803

Email Peacetoyou7@juno.com

Eres, Christian

From: M Shelley <mshelley50@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Fwd: Palm Harbor Library

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: M Shelley <mshelley50@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 11:32 AM
Subject: Palm Harbor Library
To: <cjustice@pinellas.gov>, <btscott@pinellas.gov>, <janetclong@pinellas.gov>, <deggers@pinellas.gov>, <clatvala@pinellas.gov>, <kpeters@pinellas.gov>, <rflowers@pinellas.gov>

It is my understanding there will be a vote to defund the Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor CSA. I am writing to ask that you do not vote in favor of this. These are valuable resources for YOUR citizens. I will be watching the meeting as will many who live in our community. IF you can not do the right thing then be assured our votes will not come YOUR way during your next election cycle.

Regards,
Michaelene Shelley

Eres, Christian

From: Jennifer McClenaghan <jennifer.mcclenaghan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 11:27 AM
To: Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Peters, Kathleen; Latvala, Christopher; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie; Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian
Subject: Please fully fund PHCSA

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Dear Sirs and Madams,
Please vote to fully fund the Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Recreation Departments on 9/19/2023.
Thanks, Jennifer McClenaghan
3021 Cedar Trce
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

Eres, Christian

From: Greenleaf, Kim
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 4:54 PM
To: BCC Agenda Comments
Cc: Stillo, Tony
Subject: 9/19th BCC Meeting, item #33 (budget)
Attachments: Re Palm Harbor Library and Parks and Rec Budget cuts.; Palm Harbour Community Services Agency and entities; budget cut; Please Support the East Lake Public Library; Budget cuts for the Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks & Recreation; PHCSA Budget Cuts; Funding Appreciation; BCC -Budget Meeting property taxes; Budget cuts; Public Library Services District & Palm Harbor Community Services Funding; Community Concerns; Budget Cuts for Palm Harbor Library 7 Parks & Recreation; Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation; NEED YOUR SUPPORT: Vote NO to Millage Cut Proposal for Palm Harbor Community Services Agency

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please add the attached emails of support of the proposed millage (no cut) of the Palm Harbor and East Lake Library and Recreation to the record for agenda item #33.

Kimberly H. Greenleaf

Executive Aide to Commissioner Dave Eggers

Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, District 4
315 Court Street, Fifth Floor
Clearwater, FL 33756
727-464-3276 office
kgreenleaf@pinellas.gov

Eres, Christian

From: Linda Wexler <wexlerlm@live.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 1:25 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: NEED YOUR SUPPORT: Vote NO to Millage Cut Proposal for Palm Harbor Community Services Agency

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Dear Mr. Eggers,

It is my understanding that the local commissioners have made a motion to cut the millage ONLY to Palm Harbor Community Services Agency, including East Lake Community Library, among others.

My family and I have lived at Lansbrook for 30 years and I have volunteered for quite some time at the East Lake Community Library, where I see and experience first-hand how much our area residents (including my family) depend on it for vital services. If the proposal to cut the millage for the Palm Harbor and East Lake entities as well as the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative passes next Tuesday, it is the residents who will suffer, as it would have a crippling effect on hours, staffing, programs, and services.

Please think twice when you vote on Tuesday. Our critical services depend on it.

Thank you for your consideration and for all that you.

Sincerely,
Linda M. Wexler
Resident, Ellinwood at Lansbrook

Eres, Christian

From: Susan Schimmel <schimmelsusand@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 12:59 PM
To: Long, Janet C
Subject: Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Hello, I am writing to respectfully implore you to **not** to consider any budget cuts to the Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation. The services that they offer are invaluable to the community. My husband and I frequently attend and greatly enjoy events offered. When we were newcomers to Palm Harbor, seven years ago, one of our first actions was to join the library. We were able to meet many interesting people and learn so much about our new community and home. I would say that the Palm Harbor Library is the hub of our neighborhood. The events offered vary greatly and afford something of interest for all, ranging from evening events for adults and families, classes, children's' activities and many that promote literacy and language learning. In fact, rather than cut the budget, I would suggest that you amplify it.

Please contact me if you would like any further clarification. I can be reached at the email above or by phone, 727 422 6143.

Regards, Susan Schimmel

Eres, Christian

From: Cecile Creely <faiely@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 12:18 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Budget Cuts for Palm Harbor Library 7 Parks & Recreation

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Dear Commissioner Eggers,

. I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed budget cuts for our libraries and parks and recreation programs in Palm Harbor.. These vital community resources are not just amenities; they are essential components of our community's well-being and growth. I urge you to reconsider these budget cuts for the following reasons:

1. **Education and Lifelong Learning:** Our libraries are more than just repositories of books. They serve as centers for education and lifelong learning. Cutting library budgets would limit access to books, digital resources, and educational programs for our residents. This move could have a detrimental impact on literacy rates and educational opportunities for our children and adults alike.
2. **Equal Access:** Libraries provide a level playing field where everyone can access information and educational resources regardless of their socio-economic status. Cutting library budgets may disproportionately affect vulnerable populations who rely on libraries for internet access, job searching, and educational support.
3. **Community Hub:** Libraries and parks are community hubs that foster social interaction, connection, and engagement. They are spaces where people from all walks of life can come together, share ideas, and build a sense of belonging. Reducing funding for parks and recreation programs would limit opportunities for social cohesion and physical well-being.
4. **Economic Impact:** Parks and recreation programs contribute significantly to our local economy by attracting tourists, supporting local businesses, and creating jobs. Budget cuts in these areas could have a ripple effect on our community's economic stability.
5. **Quality of Life:** Public parks offer residents opportunities for physical activity, relaxation, and recreation. These green spaces are essential for maintaining and improving our community's overall quality of life. Reduced funding would lead to a decline in park maintenance and amenities, impacting the health and happiness of our residents.
6. **Property Values:** Well-maintained parks and accessible libraries are attractive features that enhance property values in our county. A decrease in funding for these assets could potentially reduce property values and harm homeowners' investments.

I understand the challenges involved in managing a county budget, but I believe that investing in libraries and parks and recreation programs is an investment in the future of our community. Instead of cutting their budgets, I encourage you to explore alternative revenue sources, seek grants, or consider other cost-saving measures that would allow us to preserve these invaluable community assets.

Our libraries and parks and recreation programs are the heart and soul of our county. They play a pivotal role in shaping a thriving, educated, and healthy community. I implore you to reconsider the proposed budget cuts and work towards finding sustainable solutions that will preserve and strengthen these essential services.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to seeing our county continue to prosper with the support of these invaluable resources.

Cecile & Ron Creely
Palm Harbor Residents

Eres, Christian

From: Wanda Fanning <wfanning@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 11:31 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Community Concerns

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Dear Board of County Commissioners.

I am a retired teacher and I have been a resident of Palm Harbor for about 20 years. I am very distressed about what I am hearing of the possible defunding of the Palm Harbor Library, CSA, and our Parks and Recreation services. Please tell me that this ill-advised move has been reconsidered and discarded.

Not all children have access at home to books and computers. The library fills this need. Each time I drive past the library, I see the parking lot is full. Obviously, there are many in our community that use the library and feel that it is essential to their lives. It provides a safe haven for students after school where they can complete homework or study subjects of interest to them. An open, free library is necessary for the betterment, and education, of our society. Our youth take full advantage of the parks and recreation services, too. Sports are a wonderful way to keep young people active and involved and, dare I say it, out of trouble. Cut these parks and the services provided by them, and where will our young people congregate and what will they do? As for the CSA, each time I go there for an activity or meeting, the rooms are full, and people are enjoying the facilities. I just do not understand how these services are even under consideration for defunding.

I realize that funding for various services is always tight and that everyone has preferred projects. It seems that a large segment of our community will suffer if the aforementioned services are defunded.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Wanda Fanning

Eres, Christian

From: Matthew Maichuk <maichukmatthewpta@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 11:11 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Public Library Services District & Palm Harbor Community Services Funding

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioner Eggers

I am writing to you in support of fully funding both the Pinellas Public Library Services District and the Palm Harbor Community Services Fund, especially the Palm Harbor Library.

My name is Matthew Maichuk and I am a resident of Palm Harbor. I moved to Palm Harbor in 2018 and after getting my Florida license the next thing I procured was my library card. Growing up in a state with a well funded and accessible public library system made me aware of all the benefits and services allocated by libraries; they offer assistance with taxes, the ability to loan wifi hotspots, and the normal library advantages of a safe space with accessible technology. I believe in this so much I applied to volunteer at the library up until the considerations around covid took place. Now that I am a guardian the library has grown in importance in providing a well rounded experience for my son. He is able to explore and ask questions in a safe surrounding with talented caring professionals to assist when needed. A professionalism Palm Harbor library has shown for all the years of my experience with them.

To let funding stagnate during times of inflation or to reduce them without reason serves to suggest the community is being ignored or even worse targeted. I can't fathom why anyone would seek to limit the advantages of such a service to the elderly, youth, and underprivileged unless there was something more nefarious in mind. 49 percent of Pinellas are ALICE families, it is hard to think that undeserving that enormous community is beneficial.

Palm Harbor Parks and Rec is also a resource I use now for summer camps for my son. The endless stories he returns with often are only cut short if I lose track and take Nebraska home and he asks to stop at the library. That is the prevalent importance of these networked services that commissioners looked to degrade.

These two organizations not only deserve all the money they requested, but in reality they deserve more! I would argue that they are a huge part of creating a safe and crime free environment in Palm Harbor and should receive a couple hundred thousand from the Sheriff's budget, which approximately 50% of the county budget. He won't miss it where as they will use it to the maximum degree!

Please fully fund the Pinellas Public Library Services District and the Palm Harbor Community Services Agency.

Thank you

Matthew Maichuk
2908 Shannon Cir
Palm Harbor, FL 34684

Eres, Christian

From: D.Ashley Spear <dashley004@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 11:09 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Latvala, Christopher; Eggers, Dave; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Budget cuts

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To whom it may concern,

Hello there. I hope everyone is having a lovely Friday so far.

I just found out yesterday, while visiting the Palm Harbor library to check out some books from their wonderful children's section, that there will be budget cuts on September 19th.

As a caring and concerned patron, I wanted to voice how important I think this library is, and the impact it has on the community from my perspective.

We have traveled and moved around a lot in my sons almost 8 years of life. We have also lived in multiple cities in Florida for the past 5 years, so I have been to a fair share of libraries.

The Palm Harbor library, is one of my favorite libraries for kids in Florida. They have an amazing selection for children, the room is smaller and not so overwhelming, creates a calm energy, even when it's not quiet. The library has activities and clubs for people of all ages, STEM projects for kids to take home and explore, continuing education and other classes, craft packs kids can take with them, and great scavenger hunts around the property. The librarians have great energy. They are also motivated to helping people, answering their questions, assisting them in finding books, and now they have set up an amazing crafting/creating area in the children's section that is so awesome and beneficial to have there for growing and curious minds as well as emotional and mental health. Especially for those families who aren't able to create that environment at home, children are still able to have access to tangible, sensory benefiting things. You can tell they worked hard, put a lot of love, and are proud of the space, and I've seen kids light up when they see it.

I hope when thinking about budget cuts, you also remember how important this library is to adults and kids alike in this community and surrounding. An irreplaceable and amazing continuing resource for people, online and offline access to what's inaccessible to some, a sanctuary, an escape. A place for brains to grow and learn. To find peace and acceptance, to gain perspective and practice critical thinking skills. To be surrounded with actual books, and real interaction between people and not just communicating through technology.

Thank you,

D Ashley Spear

Eres, Christian

From: Amanda Gillespie <agillespie@live.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 10:25 AM
To: Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Latvala, Christopher; Eggers, Dave; Janetclong@pinells.gov; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: BCC -Budget Meeting property taxes

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear BCC members,

BCC Budget Meeting: Tuesday September 19,2023
Resolution: 23-1203A

Support of the current millage rate

I am a homeowner and resident of unincorporated Pinellas. As a homeowner, I'm trying to understand who benefits if the millage rate is reduced. Corporations who are buying properties, making them rentals, and contributing to making Pinellas unaffordable? I can say, it's not me. I'm not interested in saving a few dollars a year in exchange for a reduction in services, including the parks and libraries.

That's my two cents, and I'll happily pay the \$12 annual fee to keep my parks and libraries.(and water chlorinate)

Amanda Gillespie

Eres, Christian

From: Arlene Zimmermann <arlenephil321@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 9:57 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Funding Appreciation

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Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for removing the Palm Harbor library and Recreation Dept. along with PPLC from the possible budget cuts. We appreciate your response to our concern.

Arlene Zimmermann

Eres, Christian

From: kimholden@tampabay.rr.com
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 7:37 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; 'kimholden@tampabay.rr.com'
Subject: Re Palm Harbor Library and Parks and Rec Budget cuts.

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Pinellas Board of County Commissioners.

Please consider how much good these facilities provide for the fast growing population in Palm Harbor. Not every body chooses to work from home on their computers. People need a place to go and spend time out of their homes and these services provide that outlet along side the main use of a Library. Palm Harbor library provide many other helpful and much needed services . From Classes to meeting rooms.

Palm Harbor has a large retired community and having to travel to near by towns to use there libraries is not always an option.

WE NEED OUR PALM HARBOR LIBRARY.

Thank you.

Kim Holden

Eres, Christian

From: Barry Bunker <barry_bunker@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 6:26 AM
To: Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Justice, Charlie; Scott, Brian; Long, Janet C
Subject: Palm Harbour Community Services Agency and entities

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Dear Ladies & Gentlemen of the County Board of Commissioners

I writing to ask you not to pass the motion to cut services to Palm Harbour Community Services Agency and entities.

We have used the East lake Library for the past 20 or so years. The access to free books and information promoting knowledge and understanding of the world is essential for the ongoing prosperity of the nation.

Yours sincerely

Barry Bunker

Eres, Christian

From: X Kleis <seespot4pets@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 8:53 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: budget cut

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear County Commissioner,

The Palm Harbor Library is a wonderfully unique library that relies on its many volunteers to fill the positions which would have been paid positions to serve the public appropriately. Therefore, with regard to cutting the budget for the library, it would be highly detrimental. The library provides many services to the community, along with numerous activities and programs held at the library. If the budget is cut these things may need to be discontinued, in turn the community would suffer. Please consider these things before making a decision to cut the budget.

Sincerely,

Xanthe and Keith Kleis

Eres, Christian

From: Mary Nelson <mlnelson56@tampabay.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 8:42 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Latvala, Christopher; Scott, Brian; Peters, Kathleen; Justice, Charlie; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Eggers, Dave
Subject: Please Support the East Lake Public Library

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the Board of County Commissioners,

East Lake Community Library provides quality library services to the East Lake area residents. The library provides essential services that are not readily available through other venues. I urge you to preserve the .2500 millage rate in the 2024 Pinellas County budget to maintain the quality services offered by the library. Our community depends on the library.

In addition, please continue to maintain support for the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative.

Thank you for supporting this necessary funding for East Lake Community Library.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Nelson
Resident

Sent from my iPad

Eres, Christian

From: Cathy Messner <cpmessner@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 8:11 PM
To: Cathy Messner
Subject: Budget cuts for the Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks & Recreation

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Please DO NOT vote for these budget cuts in the Palm Harbor budget. The Palm Harbor Library and the Palm Harbor Parks & Recreation are valued support services in this community. I have lived in Pinellas County for over 35 years and 23 of those years in Palm Harbor and use these services regularly.

Thank You,

Cathy Messner
3323 McMath Dr
Palm Harbor, FL 34684

Eres, Christian

From: t.cuo@icloud.com
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 6:49 PM
To: t.cuo@icloud.com
Subject: PHCSA Budget Cuts

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Dear County Commissioner,

I am writing due to the fact that you plan to make major changes to the budget of the Palm Harbor Community Services Agency (PHCSA).

Think about this for a second: the average salary in Pinellas County is \$74,224 per year. Now, let's say, for arguments' sake, that this proposed budget cut saves citizens of Pinellas County \$5 a month (and it probably will save less), that equates to an even \$60 a year. You're not even putting 0.1% of their salary back in their pocket! Meanwhile, keeping that \$5 per person in the PHCSA budget will give them an extra 4.78 million dollars per year! That's a huge difference. As a person who lives in the East Lake Area, these setbacks will not only make my local area lose almost 5 million dollars per year, but also leave me with no public park OR public library within 45 minutes of my house. That's a huge difference. Please make a change and vote against these changes. I hope you do what you think is best for Pinellas County, and especially the area where I live. Do what you know is right.

Thanks,

An anonymous resident of East Lake

Eres, Christian

From: Greenleaf, Kim
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 5:04 PM
To: BCC Agenda Comments
Cc: Stillo, Tony
Subject: 9/19th BCC Agenda, Item #33 (budget)
Attachments: Palm Harbor is better because of its' library; Library and Parks & Rec; Budget Support for East Lake Community Library (and North County services); Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks & Recreations ; Re: Palm Harbor Library Budget; The attached notice ; Palm Harbor library ; We ♥ Palm Harbor; Palm Harbor Library & Recreation Department; funding PH library and rec league; Funding for PH library is much needed!! ; Please support the East Lake Community Library

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please add the emails in support of keeping the proposed millage (against reductions) for the Palm Harbor and East Lake libraries, recreation and for PPLC.

Kimberly H. Greenleaf

Executive Aide to Commissioner Dave Eggers

Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, District 4
315 Court Street, Fifth Floor
Clearwater, FL 33756
727-464-3276 office
kgreenleaf@pinellas.gov

Eres, Christian

From: Lora Mills <pmjeff@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 4:22 PM
To: Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Peters, Kathleen; Latvala, Christopher
Subject: The attached notice

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As a voting constituent and a resident of North Pinellas, please do not allow this to happen. This is not a joke. This is an important issue to the people in the North Pinellas area. I am a voting resident. Please reconsider.
Lora Mills



URGENT REQUEST COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Some county commissioners are asking for a
millage rate for *only* Palm Harbor
parks and recreation department
Library Cooperative. Although the
taxes by a few dollars a year, it
staffing, programs, services, and
\$110,000 in revenue. This is

Sent from my iPad

Eres, Christian

From: Verizon <jtuna46@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 3:38 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Re: Palm Harbor Library Budget

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On Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 03:35:17 PM EDT, Verizon <jtuna46@aol.com> wrote:

On Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 02:15:27 PM EDT, Verizon <jtuna46@aol.com> wrote:

I understand that at your meeting September 19, 2023 the Board of Commissioners is considering a budget cut for the Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation.

I live in Palm Harbor. The Library serves this community with lots of activities and services beyond just being a location to go check out books, magazines, movies. I don't know why you are considering cutting their budget. They service both adults and children. They offer numerous programs for anyone to attend.

Please reconsider the possible budget cut. Are you doing that to ALL county libraries or only this one?

I would like to have some explanation sent to me.

Judith Fortuna
1337 Westlake Blvd
Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Eres, Christian

From: Anne Largay <alargay@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 2:48 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Parks & Recreations

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Dear Commissioners:

It's my understanding that the Palm Harbor Library, along with our Parks & Recreation, are being considered for budget cuts. Why? The Library is used by so many people of all ages. Reading is vital to the success of our children, of all ages. To cut what is offered at the Palm Harbor Library would reduce the benefits of all the programs offered.

Kids today spend too much time indoors. Cutting budgets to our Parks & Recreation would reduce the amount of time families can and would enjoy time outdoor together.

I'm sure other things that don't benefit all, can be reduced.

Looking forward to continue enjoying these Palm Harbor programs.

Anne Edmands

Sent from my iPad

Eres, Christian

From: James Cuomo <jacuomo@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 2:13 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Cc: Lois Eannel; Andrea Panarelli; Barbara Cole; Dan Wendol; Joan McCarthy; John Sykes; Lindsay Herrington
Subject: Budget Support for East Lake Community Library (and North County services)

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. [Do not](#) click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

September 14, 2023

Dear Members of the Board of County Commissioners,

I reside at 5913 Windermere Drive in Palm Harbor and serve as Chair of the East Lake Community Library (ELCL) Advisory Board. I am writing to you on behalf of the ELCL Advisory Board and as an anxious citizen.

As you prepare to finalize the FY2024 budget for Pinellas County next Tuesday, I strongly urge you to follow the guidance of County Administrator Barry Burton and preserve the tentative millage rates for the authorities/MSTUs serving unincorporated North County: East Lake Library Services (.2500), East Lake Recreation Services (.2500), and Palm Harbor Community Services (.5000).

I applaud the BCC for taking a very close look at the budget and considering the impacts to our costs of living here, especially as it pertains to extraordinary pressures of inflation and insurance in recent years. I assure you that these same issues are being felt at the East Lake Community Library, along with the challenge of providing competitive salaries in the job market without the additional health and retirement benefits afforded to County employees. It forces creativity and strong partnerships to develop an environment where services are maximized at minimal cost. Every dollar matters.

As a Pinellas County taxpayer, the BCC's efforts to determine millage rates that effectively prevent taxing "too much" by factoring in our rising property values is appreciated. However, Commissioner Peters said it best at your Regular Meeting on September 7, 2023, *"I know we [BCC] all want to save the taxpayers some money, but I don't think this is significant enough... This is pennies on somebody's tax bill for the savings that we would incur."* I fully agree. The likely \$2-12 annual savings barely covers the cost of gas or a Publix sub, but it has demonstrable impact at scale when it adds up to almost 10% of the ELCL annual operating budget. And it is the same with our friends at East Lake Recreation and Palm Harbor Community Services.

Additionally, the Public Library Services District funds the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative (PPLC), the interagency across all libraries within our County. Though they may be best known as a way to share books across our 20+ libraries through the Reciprocal Borrowing Agreement, the PPLC provides significant scale for shared media and online services, leveraged by *all* Pinellas libraries. Further, PPLC distributes funding to each of the libraries and, for those libraries in unincorporated

Pinellas, this has an outsized impact as these funds go directly to library services. It is critical that the Public Library Services District funds are secured at their tentative millage rate of .5000 by BCC on September 19.

Commissioners, without a city infrastructure in Palm Harbor you truly are our only local government representatives. Your ardent support for the services provided to the citizens of unincorporated North County is encouraged and appreciated. As Chairman of the ELCL Advisory Board, and as a resident and beneficiary of the services in this area, I ask you to keep the millage rates intact for the East Lake, Palm Harbor, and Library Services districts for FY2024.

Sincerely,

James Cuomo
Chairman, East Lake Community Library Advisory Board

cc: Lois Eannel (ELCL Director), ELCL Advisory Board Members

Eres, Christian

From: Abby Christopoulos <abby.christopoulos@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 2:10 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Library and Parks & Rec

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioners,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed budgets for the PH Library and the PH Parks and Recreation department. As a member of this community, I want to highlight the importance of maintaining adequate funding for these vital resources that directly impact our family's well-being and the education of our children.

First and foremost, I want to emphasize how much my emergent reader children have benefited from the PH Library. The library plays a crucial role in their development by providing a wide range of books that keep them engaged in reading. The accessible and diverse collection of materials has helped nurture their love for reading, enhancing their language skills and cognitive development. We believe that a well-funded library is an investment in our children's future.

Additionally, during the summer months, our family relies heavily on the services offered by the PH Parks and Recreation department. The summer camp programs and various sporting activities provided by the department have been an integral part of our children's summer experience. Not only do these programs keep our children active and healthy, but they also contribute to their social development by allowing them to interact with peers in a structured and enjoyable environment.

I urge you to reconsider any proposed cuts to the budgets of these essential community assets. The library and Parks and Recreation department are invaluable resources that contribute to the quality of life in our town. They provide opportunities for learning, growth, and recreation that benefit all residents, young and old alike.

In conclusion, I implore you to prioritize the well-being and education of our community by maintaining or even increasing the funding for the PH Library and the PH Parks and Recreation department. These investments will pay dividends in the form of a more vibrant, educated, and healthy community. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your continued support for these essential services.

Sincerely,

Abby Christopoulos
Palm Harbor Resident

Eres, Christian

From: Annie Jackson <anniejackson52@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 1:55 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Palm Harbor library

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Hi, I am just sending an email In support of funding for Palm Harbor library. It's a great place to go. The employees are kind and knowledgeable. It's a much needed place where people can connect ! The future needs libraries 🌟

Thanks ,
Annie Catherine Jackson

Sent from my iPhone

Eres, Christian

From: shay kent <shay@shaymichelle.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 1:53 PM
To: Long, Janet C; brscott@pintellas.gov; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Palm Harbor is better because of its' library

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Hello County Commissioners,

My name is Shay.

Ten years ago I moved to Palm Harbor from Colorado. One of the very first things I did was visit the library. After all, the way the library functions, serves, and to what extent it provides to its' community tells you a lot about the new town you're living in.

I've been an avid library user my whole life, everywhere I've lived, and I must tell you, Palm Harbor is the MOST outstanding of any I've been a part of. I cannot tell you how many times I've walked out of the library, thinking to myself, well, they've done it again! They've superseded what I thought a library could do, and I'm delighted and surprised at every turn. From the puzzles to the book store to being able to find EVERY. SINGLE. BOOK I'm looking for (how do they do that?! I like really obscure titles), to the community classes, to the art cove corner. It is such a sanctuary for the community.

Now more than ever, we need a place to go, to gather, to feel a part of something. So much has shut down since COVID, so much lost, loneliness is on the rise and I think most of us can feel it. Places like the library can help us to be more hopeful, empathetic, involved, and like we belong. They educate us, support us with technology, and give our children safe spaces to be curious. They're so much more than just books on a shelf.

Please consider continuing to fund the library. I have a deep love for the library and specifically, the Palm Harbor Library. It really is the best of the best. Please, support it so it can support our community well, as it has done.

Thank you for your consideration.

Take care,
Shay Kent
www.ShayMichelle.com

Eres, Christian

From: Peters, Kathleen
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 1:50 PM
To: Clerk Board Records
Subject: Fw: Funding of Pal Harbor Public Library

From: Elizabeth Upton <pinkyjune1985@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 1:13 PM
To: Elizabeth Upton <pinkyjune1985@gmail.com>
Subject: Funding of Pal Harbor Public Library

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

To: Pinellas Board of Commissioners

Please do not cut back on funding of our Palm Harbor library!! This library serves 100's of people every day, all ages & for multiple needs. All Palm Harbor library patrons rely on this library as a lifeline for information, entertainment, classes, research, play time & contact with others. Cutting back on funding for this library would have devastating consequences on the entire community.

Mine is just one voice, but I know there are 1000's of other people in Palm Harbor who feel as passionately as I do about our library!!

PLEASE do not cut our funding!

Thank you for any assistance you can provide.

Elizabeth Upton

Palm Harbor resident

Sent from my iPhone

Eres, Christian

From: ashleigh vickers <ajvickers1998@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 1:45 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: We ♥ Palm Harbor

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Hello County Commissioners,

I am writing today on behalf of Palm Harbor Library & Palm Harbor Recreation Center. Both of these businesses have positively impacted my life, my future, as well as my children's life and future. I am a Palm Harbor native, born and raised, I graduated from PHUHS in 2015, and went on to have two beautiful children of my own.

Some of my fondest childhood memories are walking from Beacon Groves subdivision to Palm Harbor Library during the summer to utilize the computers in the teen room as well as spend quality time with friends in a SAFE, positive environment. Even further back, I can remember attending kid based activities in the conference room at the PHL, one class included teaching us how to cook! My brother and I still reflect on what good times we had as a family there. My hope for my family, is that my son who is 11 months old, will be able to get that same experiences that we have had. From story times, carnivals or just browsing for books - Palm Harbor Library has been a staple in our community.

Palm Harbor Recreation center has been equally as amazing, as a child, I participated in gymnastics, dancing, Zumba, and other classes they have offered at the rec center, for an affordable price. My family and I look forward to Halloween time every year to go enjoy the festival they put together.

I feel that cutting budgeting for these programs **will** impact our community. These two entities bring children and families together time and time again, SAFELY whilst also encouraging our younger generations to stay informed, keep learning and feel proud to dwell in Palm Harbor.

Thank you all for taking the time to read my story, on how Palm Harbor Library and Palm Harbor Recreation Center are important to Palm Harbor Residents!



Ashleigh Vickers



ajvickers1998@yahoo.com



(727) 992-1255



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Eres, Christian

From: Arlene Zimmermann <arlenephil321@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 1:38 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Palm Harbor Library & Recreation Department

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Esteemed Commissioners:

We understand that our Palm Harbor Library and our Recreation Department have been singled out to cut their proposed budgets for fiscal year 2024.

We ask you in the strongest terms to consider what these programs provide for the Palm Harbor family members of all ages. Education, information, recreation, stimulation and many other advantages that are not possible anywhere else. Both departments have large followings that partake of all that is available. Even in this age of disagreement we can not punish these two wonderful organizations and the many participants that they continue to attract.

Please do everything possible in your power to continue the long tradition of providing for our families that these two vital parts of our community have continued to do so well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Arlene Zimmermann
1047B Dunrobin Drive
Palm Harbor, FL 34684
A 21 year Palm Harbor homeowner

Eres, Christian

From: Stephanie Bovis <sbovis07@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 1:38 PM
Subject: Funding for PH library is much needed!!

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioner,

Please take into consideration the great need and value to the community families, individuals, other nonprofits, etc. and how much it means for the Palm Harbor Library (and most other public libraries) to retain their funding. This library has become our home away from home. As a young mom of 2, we utilize the free services, programs and special events many times over. This helps us to become better community members, meet new children and families, educate us, help provide a safe and cool place (especially during those hot months).

We spend a lot of time at PHL, these librarians work hard and use a lot of energy/ care to create a welcoming space, exciting programs and activities that all can enjoy, fun things to do and experience, things we might not be able to attend otherwise. We attend multiple programs weekly, we borrow books and CDs, use the computers for games and reading, partake in the summer reading program with prizes, take advantage of the museum passes and so much more. All of this takes effort, dedication but especially funding. And I am sure all of these amazing things are being done on an already small, strict budget.

Please do NOT take away funding. If anything, please increase the funding for these special places that many turn to when they don't have the resources to go elsewhere.

Thank you for your consideration,
Stephanie S.
Concerned community member and parent

Eres, Christian

From: Sue Loucks <sueloucks25@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 1:38 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: funding PH library and rec league

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my desire to have funding for Palm Harbor Library and CSA (PH Parks and Rec) to continue for both the library and recreation programs. My family and I have enjoyed the benefits of being a part of the Palm Harbor community.

My three daughters played softball from T ball to Senior league utilizing the fields those funds provided. The fields were so well maintained and safe. These activities provided a safe, learning environment. They built lasting friendships and lifelong skills. My husband volunteered as a coach enriching his life as well as the girls as they grew into young ladies as they learned the values of fair play, honesty, responsibilities, and persistence.

The library was a source of knowledge for research projects, use of computers, and reinforcement of reading skills. I use it by loaning books, attending tai chi classes, garden lectures, check out seeds for my garden, and visiting county art museums.

Susan Loucks

Eres, Christian

From: Barbara Cole <barbarawcole@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 12:19 PM
To: Eggers, Dave; Long, Janet C; Latvala, Christopher; Scott, Brian; Peters, Kathleen; Justice, Charlie; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Please support the East Lake Community Library

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

September 14, 2023

Dear Members of the Board of County Commissioners,

The Friends of East Lake Community Library exist to “promote and enhance library services and facilities of ELCL, to foster closer relationships between the library and its community, and to raise funds in support of the library, its materials and resources.” We raise funds to support the library, but our funds cannot in any way replace the tax dollars that assure quality library service in East Lake.

As you prepare to finalize the FY2024 budget for Pinellas County next Tuesday, we strongly urge you to preserve the .2500 millage rate for the East Lake Community Library. We also urge you to continue to maintain support for the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative. The Cooperative services and materials available and used by the East Lake Community Library are invaluable.

While we appreciate the BCC examining tax rate given the rising costs of living, inflation, and insurance, it is true that the same costs are being felt at the East Lake Community Library. In addition, the library faces the challenge of providing competitive salaries in the job market without the additional health and retirement benefits afforded to County employees (library employees are not county employees.)

We agree that Commissioner Peters said it best at your Regular Meeting on September 7, 2023, “*I know we [BCC] all want to save the taxpayers some money, but I don’t think this is significant enough... This is pennies on somebody’s tax bill for the savings that we would incur.*” The likely \$2-12 annual savings makes little difference to a homeowner’s budget but could have a very large impact on the library because it amounts to almost 10% of the library’s annual operating budget.

The Pinellas Public Library Cooperative – better known as PPLC – plays a critical role as an interagency across all libraries within our County. They enable sharing books across the county’s 20+ libraries through the Reciprocal Borrowing Agreement, and also provide shared media, online databases as well as the shared catalog of library holdings. Further, PPLC distributes funding to each of the libraries and, for those libraries in unincorporated Pinellas, this has an outsized impact as these funds go directly to library services. It is critical that PPLC funds are secured at their millage rate of .5000 by BCC on September 19.

We appreciate your past support for the services provided to the citizens of unincorporated North County. The Friends of East Lake Community Library ask you to keep the millage rates intact for the East Lake Community Library in FY 2024.

Sincerely,

Barbara Cole
President, Friends of East Lake Community Library
4125 East Lake Road, Palm Harbor, FL 34685

Eres, Christian

From: Greenleaf, Kim
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 1:23 PM
To: BCC Agenda Comments
Subject: 9/19th BCC agenda, item #33 (support the East Lake and Palm Harbor Library and Rec budgets as proposed)
Attachments: Budget decisions; Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Result #28533536; Palm Harbor Library; Library funding; Eastlake millage rate; ELCL and millage rates; Proposal re East Lake Library millage rate; Palm Harbor Library
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please add the attached emails to item #33 on the 9/19th BCC agenda to show their support of the East Lake and Palm Harbor Library and Recreation budgets as proposes (no budget cuts).

Kimberly H. Greenleaf

Executive Aide to Commissioner Dave Eggers

Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, District 4

315 Court Street, Fifth Floor

Clearwater, FL 33756

727-464-3276 office

kgreenleaf@pinellas.gov

Eres, Christian

From: debra ruth <theruths01@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 12:44 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Palm Harbor Library

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

I am a Literacy Volunteer Tutor at the Palm Harbor Library. While our volunteer numbers are growing, so are the numbers of new incoming adult students who are new to our country and are trying to gain fluency in speaking English so they can find gainful employment and raise their families here in comfort and safety. Carol Mercier, our Palm Harbor Literacy Leader, provides outstanding support and encouragement to all of us – both tutors and students. Winona Patterson has provided a most welcoming and friendly support to us as volunteers at the library. Her energy and willingness to welcome and support us as volunteers is remarkable.

The Palm Harbor Library is imperative to the northern Pinellas County area. Not only providing books and resources to anyone who applies for a library card, the library has become a hub of group activities and learning – bringing together people as a community. Classes and creative events provide opportunities for people to develop friendships and enjoy the company of others.

My children, now grown, were always members of the library here. Our excursions to the library were several times weekly. We utilized the books, resources and play areas, and we speak often of our fond memories at the library through the years. Where else can one take their children for activities, crafts, books, movies at no cost? And the library has greatly expanded its resources and activities over the years.

If ever there are budget cuts to the library, the loss of the services would be a great backward motion for our library and for the people. Indeed, there are so many new people coming to our area, the library should be the first to receive additional funding and budgets for the many resources and community-building activities as we continue to grow.

Let us know as volunteers what we can do to ensure continued growth and expansion of what is the most important service provided for the people in northern Pinellas County – the Palm Harbor Library.

Thank you for all you do to support this vital community resource.

~Deb Ruth

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Eres, Christian

From: Cathy Simms <shellgal@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 9:11 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Proposal re East Lake Library millage rate

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Subject: Proposal to cut millage rate for East Lake Library and parks and recreation departments and Pinellas Public Library Cooperative

I am a resident of East Lake and a very frequent user of the East Lake library. Please vote against the proposal to cut the millage rate for the library and the cooperative.

Here are my reasons:

The library is the only county community center on the East Lake side of Palm Harbor and serves as a gathering place for all ages. It has grown over the years to support many aspects of learning for all ages.

The library is well run and the staff is always positive and helpful as well as knowledgeable. Any time I am in the library I see many East Lake residents using the facilities. Its community programs draw people who then use the facilities. They continue to offer diverse programs and services. It is a healthy community asset and needs to be supported by you.

I have spoken to many of my neighbors about the proposal and they are appalled that a healthy, well run and effective organization is being threatened by this proposal.

Please vote against the proposal.

Thank you
Catherine Simms
3801 Windber Blvd
Palm Harbor FL 34685
727-902-3137

Eres, Christian

From: Jeanne Unger <jeanne.unger16@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2023 2:18 PM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: ELCL and millage rates

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Member of the Board of County Commissioners,

I am a local resident and frequent user of the ELCL. This has been true since we bought property here in 2011 and even truer since we relocated to Florida in late 2015.

This library was a godsend for me during the times I was still working, as it provided appropriate space and free internet for me to work remotely while on vacation in my initial years here on vacation. Since my retirement and relocation to Florida from NY (in late 2015), I have utilized its many offerings multiple times per week every year. I also frequently utilize the inter library loan system, which makes this library the complete package for me and so many others. I simply can't imagine a place more community minded, friendly, accessible and useful for the ENTIRE community- seniors, adults/ parents, teens and children. That is the nature of my experience with this library.

Having spent over 20 years of my career running a not-for-profit, I am keenly aware of budgeting and the necessity to factor in so many other realities, such as inflation and other rising costs of living. However, the millage rate increase is infinitesimal compared to all the value the ELCL provides with it. While I appreciate the Board's sensitivity to our current increasing cost of living, I find it difficult to believe that such a small ANNUAL bill increase will make a significant difference to lessening expenses for each household. Conversely, the amount of good it can do for this community through the work and outreach of the ELCL is immeasurable.

I appreciate all the support previously provided to our East Lake community and ask you to consider and vote for keeping the millage rates intact for the 2024 fiscal year.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jeanne M. Unger
3651 Indigo Pond Dr.
Palm Harbor, FL 34685

Sent from my iPad

Eres, Christian

From: Todd Jones <ctoddjones86@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2023 2:07 PM
To: Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Latvala, Christopher; Eggers, Dave; Long, Janet C; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Eastlake millage rate

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioners: I recently learned that a proposal exists to reduce the millage rate for the Palm Harbor and East Lake entities as well as the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, which funds many of the countywide services to ALL libraries, including e-resources, Deaf Literacy, and Talking Books. If these proposed cuts are approved at Tuesday's public hearing, the East Lake Community Library would lose approximately \$110,000 from this year's budget while East Lake Recreation would lose approximately \$73,000. This would have a crippling effect on hours, staffing, programs, and services. The millage rate reduction would only mean an average of less than \$1 a month from homeowner's trim notices but would have a huge negative impact to our library and recreation.

These are vital services that many in our community rely on for intellectual development, social interaction, and a myriad of services that benefit and enrich our area. As our community representatives, I ask you to not cut these services but find other ways to identify needed funds that do not impact community enrichment.

Kind regards,

C. Todd Jones
2973 Northfield Dr, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

Eres, Christian

From: James Gasparino <jamesagasparino@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2023 1:59 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Scott, Brian; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Library funding

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

I am concerned and dismayed by your support of a proposal to cut funding for the Palm Harbor and East Lake libraries as well as the parks departments where we live. I reside in Crescent Oaks off East Lake Road and am a frequent patron of both the libraries and the parks. My daughter's family lives in Lansbrook and my grandchildren attend Brooker Creek Elementary School. They too enjoy these amenities for which we gladly support with our taxes. I encourage you to not to support this cut as it will negatively impact the support you enjoy from the families in our community.

James Gasparino

Eres, Christian

From: Phil Lemons <snomeltravel@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 16, 2023 1:00 PM
Subject: Palm Harbor Library

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

It is so disappointing to hear that the Board of Commissioners is considering cutting the budget of the Palm Harbor Library at your next meeting. The Library provides so many different programs for our community and it would be such a shame if the budget is cut and choices would have to be made of which programs would be eliminated.

My family has always cherished the many opportunities that have been offered by the Library. I can assure you that the programs that may not fit our family will be utilized by other families that have different requirements.

Please do not allow for this budget to be reduced and hard choices have to be made to eliminate some programs. The citizens of Palm Harbor have the right to expect that they will continue to have a premier Library that offers programs for all the community to partake in.

Thank you for this consideration,

Philip Lemons
515 Sandy Hook Road
Palm Harbor 34683

Eres, Christian

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of Carole32Bates at yahoo.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 16, 2023 7:56 AM
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Result #28533536

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

This information is a result of a Pinellas County Online Customer Service form submission from the Pinellas County web site.

Direction of Inquiry Commissioner Janet C. Long - District 1 (2023 Chair)
Commissioner Brian Scott - District 2
Commissioner Charlie Justice - District 3
Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4
Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6 (2023 Vice-Chair)
Commissioner René Flowers - District 7

Subject funds for Palm Harbor Library

Message Please please do not take away funds for the library! The Palm Harbor Library is used constantly by so many people and has a variety of excellent programs for toddlers to seniors.

Your Name Carole Bates

Your Street Address 1526 Virginia Ave

City/Unincorporated County Palm Harbor

Zip Code 34683

Your Phone Number 7276313030

Your Email Address Carole32Bates@yahoo.com

This email was sent to deggers@pinellascounty.org as a result of a form being completed.
[Click here](#) to report unwanted email.



Eres, Christian

From: Ginger Brengle <pphsalumni@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 5:16 PM
To: Scott, Brian
Cc: Latvala, Christopher; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Peters, Kathleen; Long, Janet C; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie
Subject: Budget decisions

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Greetings,

I am a native born Pinellas County resident and have been a property taxpayer in the unincorporated area of since 1992.

I cannot comprehend why any educated person would even consider reducing funding to organizations that actually save the county money by providing free services to the public.

Libraries and Parks & Recreation centers offer opportunities for childcare, sports and other activities to keep juveniles off the streets, literacy programming, tax assistance & Social Security/Medicare counselors, homework help every afternoon, and so on.

I am hearing that these budgetary actions are retaliatory in some way. Can we not rise above the immature rhetoric happening in this country and show everyone that Pinellas County is better than that? Would you really harm thousands of residents just to punish a few? How absurd!

At a time when our county is reaping the benefits of higher property tax collections, you should be enhancing the budgets of ALL your public service areas.

Looking forward to watching you do the right thing.

Virginia Brengle
2935 164th Ave N
Clearwater, FL 33760