



STEVE WHEELER  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

PUBLIC SERVICES BUILDING  
2051 KAEN ROAD | OREGON CITY, OR 97045

March 7, 2013

City of Gladstone  
Attn: City Manager P. Boyce  
525 Portland Ave.  
Gladstone, OR 97027

Mr. Boyce,

I am writing in response to your letter of January 18, 2013. In your letter, you request that the City of Gladstone be allowed to retain, in the short term, the \$1.5 million that Clackamas County and the Library District have provided in support of the prior library expansion plan. Those funds were provided to support a specific project that would have enhanced library services for the unincorporated areas in Oak Lodge. Given that said project has been rejected by the voters of Gladstone, those conditions no longer apply. I have discussed your request with my staff, and have arrived at the conclusion that ultimately all parties would be best served by the immediate return of the \$1.5 million.

Until such time as new services are brought online, Clackamas County has an obligation to provide improved library services to the Oak Lodge area. During the same 18 month period that you mention in your letter, we will be exploring how that improved service might be delivered. This service enhancement could include expansion at our current space, lease or construction of new space, partnering with Milwaukie to provide expanded services, or working on a revised plan with Gladstone. Long term, we do not foresee the County continuing as a retail provider of library services as we move forward to improve library service in the Oak Lodge area. We have hopes that this process will move faster than 18 months and such funds will be needed during that time. Also, until such time as a firm plan is in place for the provision of those enhanced services, it would be inappropriate for those funds to be under Gladstone's control. I will have my staff contact your staff to deal with the details of the transfer.

As I mentioned in my prior letter, we view this process as a restart of the conversation. I am making no determination that Gladstone will not be part of the solution for providing improved library service. Rather, we must explore all available options and provide opportunities for community feedback. We look forward to working with Gladstone and other partners in considering the best way to provide the improved library services for our citizens.

Sincerely,

  
Steve Wheeler  
Acting County Administrator

cc: Board of County Commissioners  
Laurel Butman, Deputy County Administrator  
Gary Barth, Director, Business & Community Services  
Doris Grolbert, Library Director  
Stephen Madkour, County Counsel