



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Todd Fabian, Library Director

DATE: October 22, 2020

SUBJECT: Grant award through the Concord Public Library Foundation

Recommendation

Adopt the attached donation from the Concord Public Library Foundation for \$15,000 to supplement the long-term loss of funds from the lack of book sale revenue.

Background

Due to safety protocols put in place to combat the spread of Covid-19, the library's book sale has remained closed since early March. The book sale is run by a dedicated team of Library volunteers who sort donated items in the library's basement stacks. They refresh the books for sale at both the first floor adult area and on the second floor outside the children's room.

Discussion

The Concord Public Library normally runs a book sale when they are open for patron browsing. Libraries across the region have closed their book sales as they promote patron gathering and the items tend to change hands frequently as patrons shop for a desired item. Initially the exchange of physical money was also discouraged as part of the New Hampshire Governor's 2.0 Guidelines for reopening libraries. We currently do not have a credit card reader payment system but hope to install one in the future. In addition, the necessity to bring in library volunteers to restock the book sale and sort items in a basement was also deemed an unnecessary risk.

The money raised from book sales is versatile and is able to be spent on a variety of outlets such as: staff trainings, collection development, library technology, and eBooks.