REPORT TO COUNCIL 20
City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2671
www. CityofSacramento.org

STAFF REPORT
September 13, 2005

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Subject: Support for the Proposed Pocket-Greenhaven Library at Sojourner Truth

Location/Council District: Gloria Drive and Swale River Way, Council District 7

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution declaring the intention of the City of Sacramento to work with the Sacramento City Unified School District and the Sacramento Public Library Authority to establish space for the construction of a joint public and school library on School District and/or City property adjacent to the City's Sojourner Truth Park.

Contact: Ralph Pettingell, Recreation and Human Services Manager, 808-6173

Presenters: Anne Marie Gold, Library Director, 264-2830; Ralph Pettingell, Recreation and Human Services Manager, 808-6173

Department: Parks and Recreation

Division: Recreation and Human Services

Organization No: 4715

Summary:

The construction of a public library in the Pocket-Greenhaven neighborhood has been incorporated for many years in the Pocket Area Community Plan and the Sacramento Public Library System Master Plan. The Sacramento City Unified School District is planning to build a school with a library on their property at 7360 Gloria Drive in that neighborhood and has indicated its intention to work cooperatively with the City and Library Authority on the project. With the goals of being more competitive in the search for outside funding and of making good use of public funds, the Resolution places the City on record as supporting a joint-use library project at this site and agreeing to work cooperatively with the District and Library Authority on the project.

Committee/Commission Action: None

Background Information:

The Pocket Area Community Plan, approved in 1979, anticipated the construction of a library in the area of Havenside Drive and Florin Road that would be 12,000-15,000 square feet in size to serve a population of 20,000-50,000 people. The relocation of the Belle Cooledge branch to the Pocket area was recommended but never done. A library to serve the Pocket has yet to be built.

In 2001 the Library System Master Plan documented the need for and anticipated the construction of a library in the Pocket area. Since that time, adequate funds have not been available. In addition, there are competing needs in other areas of the Library System's service area.

For many years, the Sacramento City Unified School District has owned two parcels totaling almost ten acres at the northeast corner of Gloria Drive and Swale River Way. That area has long been identified as a site for a school. It is adjacent to the City's Sojourner Truth Park. Currently, the District is planning for a small middle-high school focused on science and engineering at that location. Part of the District's plan for high school reform, the school would draw students from throughout the District.

A joint-use library project, capable of serving both the middle-high school and the neighborhood, would be an efficient use of public space and public funds. The library would be professionally managed by the Sacramento Public Library Authority for the benefit of all users. A joint-use project would be more competitive in the search for outside funding.

The City and School District have a long tradition of working together on joint-use projects. The most recent Community and Schools Partnership program targeted City money into District capital projects with the goal of providing new public facilities for all City residents. As shown in Attachment A, the District's Superintendent supports a joint-use library project at this site.

The neighborhood strongly supports the construction of a library at this site. The Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library has made good progress toward raising funds and publicizing the project.

Financial Considerations:

Working together in partnership, the City, School District and Library Authority will identify appropriate costs and funding opportunities.

Environmental Considerations:

There are no environmental considerations with this report.

Policy Considerations:

This report is consistent with the City's strategic plan to achieve sustainability and livability.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD):

There are no ESBD considerations with this report.

Approved by: _____
Robert G. Overstreet II
Parks and Recreation Director

Approved by: _____
Anne Marie Gold
Library Director

Recommendation Approved:

_____
ROBERT P. THOMAS
City Manager

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ATTACHMENT A

Office of the Superintendent
5735 47th Avenue • Sacramento, CA 95824
916.643.9000 Phone • 916.643.9480 Fax

M. Magdalena Carrillo Mejia, Ph.D.
Superintendent

July 8, 2004

Council Member Robbie Waters
Office of the City Council, District 7
730 I Street, Suite # 321
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Re: Sacramento City Unified School District and City of Sacramento School/Library Joint Use Facility

Dear Council Member Waters:

On behalf of the Sacramento City Unified School District, I am please to reaffirm the District's ongoing intent to work cooperatively with the City of Sacramento on our Sojourner Truth district property area library project. We believe the 10 acre property the District has committed for its Science and Engineering Small High School in the Havenside/Swail River area is an excellent location at which to site a joint use library.

The California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2000 (Education Code Sections 19985-20011) makes clear the Legislature's commitment to funding assistance for joint use projects which meet the needs of urban communities such as ours. The legislature has pointedly stated that "The construction and renovation of public library facilities is necessary to expand access to reading and literacy programs in California's public education system and to expand access to public library services for all residents of California." The Legislature has also recognized that joint use projects should be eligible for special grant funding under Education Code Section 1077.40 by demonstrating how capital and operating costs can be shared.

It is the District's intent that we work with you to achieve the Legislature's dual goal of improving both libraries and schools. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with the City through our mutual efforts to secure the necessary funding for construction and joint use operation of a library which benefits the full spectrum of our community.

Sincerely,

M. Magdelena Carrillo Mejia, Ph.D.
Superintendent

MMCM:smo

RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

DECLARING THE INTENTION OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO TO WORK WITH THE SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE SACRAMENTO PUBLIC LIBRARY AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH SPACE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A JOINT PUBLIC AND SCHOOL LIBRARY ON SCHOOL DISTRICT AND/OR CITY PROPERTY ADJACENT TO THE CITY'S SOJOURNER TRUTH PARK

BACKGROUND

A. The construction of a public library in the Pocket-Greenhaven neighborhood was incorporated in the 1979 Pocket Area Community Plan.

B. The Sacramento Public Library System Master Plan documented the need for and anticipated the construction of a public library in the Pocket area.

C. The Sacramento City Unified School District owns two parcels totaling almost ten acres Gloria Drive and Swale River Way in the Pocket neighborhood, adjacent to the City's Sojourner Truth Park. A new middle-high school is planned for construction on the District's site, which will include a school library.

D. A joint-use library project to serve both the middle-high school and neighborhood would be an efficient use of public space and public funds and would make any application for funding more competitive.

E. The City and District have a long tradition of working together on joint-use projects for the benefit of the community. The District's Superintendent supports a joint-use library project at this site.

F. Community support for a library is strong, as evidenced by the fundraising success of the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. It is the intention of the City of Sacramento to work with the Sacramento City Unified School District and the Sacramento Public Library Authority to establish space for the construction of a joint public and school library on School District and/or City property adjacent to the City's Sojourner Truth Park.