

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE September 11, 2026

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Dallas Public Library Budget Amendment**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide additional information related to the Dallas Public Library (DPL) Budget Amendment in Budget Management Services in their September 16, 2026, memorandum titled *Final Steps to Adopt the FY 2026-27 Budget on September 16*.

As we have described throughout this year's budget process, our goal for this coming year is to stabilize the Library system while positioning it for the future. In this year's budget, we maintain strong neighborhood libraries, launch the flagship model, expand access in new ways with educational and workforce partners, all to advance a sustainable, accessible library system for Dallas.

In FY 26-27, we look forward to advancing the Flagship Library model, starting with five flagships located across the city. DPL's vision is to build a system where every Dallas resident is within proximity of a flagship library that has expanded hours and increased programming and community partnerships. Flagships will complement existing neighborhood branches, digital usage, and allow services to be tailored to how residents learn, work, and participate in community life.

In FY 26-27, flagship libraries will include Hampton-Illinois, Vickery Park, Fretz Park, Bachman Lake and Pleasant Grove. In a future year, DPL plans to operate seven flagship libraries by adding Lochwood and Highland Hills.

At the same time, DPL will implement a staffing model that increases flexibility and aligns resources with community demand. This will allow DPL to redistribute hours more effectively across neighborhood branches during peak demand periods and strengthen operational efficiency. Establishing uniform branch hours across the Library system will provide greater predictability for residents – they will know when they can access their neighborhood library while also having expanded access seven days a week at one of our flagship locations.

DPL will continue prioritizing partnerships that strengthen core library services, expand programming, and reduce duplication. In FY 27, the Arcadia Park Library branch that is co-located with Arcadia Park Elementary School will restore hours to be consistent with other neighborhood branches through the attached amendment. This will provide us time to continue working collaboratively with our educational and community partners to assess what works best for both the Library system and the communities we serve.

Next year, we will expand 24/7 access at two locations in the City of Dallas via the placement of automated library kiosks to provide expanded access to books, DVD, and more, complementing the digital resources already available online.

Dallas Public Library is uniquely positioned to connect residents with life-changing educational opportunities. By combining our accessible community spaces with the expertise of higher education and workforce readiness partners in adult education and job skills training, we are creating a stronger pathway to economic opportunity. These partnerships will establish a framework that can be expanded over time to serve more residents across Dallas. Together, we will help residents earn their high school equivalency, GED, strengthen English language skills and prepare for workforce opportunities - all within the trusted environment of the library. We also plan to use FY 26-27 to transition to this programming model by retaining resources to coordinate volunteer instruction. These collaborations reflect our commitment to ensuring every Dallas resident has access to the education, skills and support needed to thrive.

For the reasons described above, I am offering the attached amendment to my proposed budget to restore Arcadia Branch Library hours to be consistent with other neighborhood branch libraries and offer expanded library services via automated Library kiosks at two locations in the City of Dallas in the amount of \$427,927.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Service First, Now!



Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert
City Manager

c: Bertram Vandenberg, City Attorney (I)
Rory Galter, City Auditor (I)
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Baron Eliason, Inspector General (I)
Dominique Artis, Chief of Public Safety
Dev Rastogi, Assistant City Manager

M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager
Alina Ciocan, Assistant City Manager
Robin Bentley, Assistant City Manager
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer
Ahmad Goree, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
John Johnson, Chief of Real Estate
Directors and Assistant Directors

City Manager		Amendment Number		1
Council Member Co-Sponsor(\$): West				
Source of Funds	Amount	Use of Funds	Amount	
Dallas Police Department - First Offender Program - transition program to Dallas County in FY 2026-27.	427,927	Restore funding for the Arcadia Park Branch Library (\$176,405) in FY 2026-27 and offer expanded library services at two locations via library kiosk (\$251,522).	427,927	
Total Source of Funds	427,927	Total Use of Funds	427,927	
City Council Action (yes/no/withdrawn)	For Staff Use	Difference	0	