



# M E M O R A N D U M



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**DATE:** July 31, 2006

**TO:** Residents in the City of Renton, and Surrounding Potential Annexation Areas (PAAs)

**FROM:** Kathy Keolker, Mayor, City of Renton  
Bill Ptacek, Director, King County Library System

**SUBJECT:** Maintaining Library Services

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Over the next few years, some areas adjacent to the City of Renton will be considering whether to become part of the City of Renton. These "Potential Annexation Areas" (PAAs) currently receive library services from the King County Library System (KCLS), a special-purpose taxing district that operates 43 libraries across King County, including the regional Fairwood Library on 140th Avenue SE, and the Skyway Library on South 126th Street. City of Renton residents use the Downtown and Highlands branches of the Renton Library System.

Annexation or incorporation could change who operates the library, but services will remain the same at all libraries **regardless of any governance change**. Current reciprocal borrowing agreements allow all residents to borrow materials from each system.

If Fairwood becomes a city, library services would continue to be provided by KCLS, with no impact on the city budget. This would require a vote by city residents to annex to the King County Library System.

For areas that annex to Renton, the City's goal is to maintain current levels of service, open hours, and programs to residents in surrounding areas, even though KCLS' level of service is different from Renton's. Renton's library system is reviewing several options for its future, including: more funding and services for current and future branches; merging the City's libraries into KCLS; or contracting library services with KCLS. The study should be complete in late 2007.

In 2004 KCLS voters approved a library capital bond levy, which includes replacement of the Skyway Library and expansion of the Fairwood Library. Whether surrounding areas annex into Renton or not, all taxpayers are obligated to pay property taxes for the part of the levy that supports construction improvements through 2022. The City of Renton envisions negotiating an agreement with KCLS to ensure that Fairwood and Skyway would be completed as planned.

Our goal is to maintain library services that are so valued by our communities. If you have questions please contact Marty Wine, the City of Renton's Assistant Chief Administrative Officer at 425.430.6526 or [mwine@ci.renton.wa.us](mailto:mwine@ci.renton.wa.us); or Denise Siers, Associate Director of Public Services for the King County Library System, at 425.369.3321 or [dsiers@kcls.org](mailto:dsiers@kcls.org).