



COUNTY OF SONOMA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
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May 17, 2024

Dear Mayor Rich and Members of the Sebastopol City Council:

The City's Ad Hoc Library Committee (Ad Hoc) will present its Report to the City Council at your meeting on May 21, 2024.

I have closely followed the work of the Ad Hoc through conversations with both Vice Mayor Stephen Zollman and my Field Representative Debbie Ramirez.

I am pleased to endorse the continued work of Ad Hoc to advance and empower the presence of the Sebastopol Branch Library as one of our community libraries.

At its start, the Ad Hoc was challenged to investigate how to provide the Sebastopol Library with a new, larger, and modern location. Its solution: a Community Center (Hub) which would not only provide space for the library but also for its community-based services and programs for Sebastopol and the greater West County.

Public libraries offer a unique venue for developing new approaches to expanding access to social service programs, resources, and information. Creating effective partnerships between social workers and public libraries – a universally recognized neighborhood resource – offers new opportunities to meet community needs. These types of partnerships challenge us to rethink engagement as an invitation to create and build with communities, as opposed to doing something to or for them. The outcomes of these collaborations are important, but often the unknown, unacknowledged histories and narratives that shape the present can inform the future.

Through its work, the Ad Hoc has convened partners, experts, and practitioners to identify strategies, resources, and practices that can be used locally to empower individuals to think critically about information in an ever-expanding information environment.

A modern, community based, Library located in a Community Building designed through collaboration and engagement will benefit the City of Sebastopol and West County culturally, economically, and socially.

I am excited by the possibilities for collaboration and community engagement presented by the Ad Hoc in its Report.

I strongly urge the Council to adopt the Ad Hoc's recommendations, notably into the new Feasibility Stage of the project.

Sincerely,

Lynda Hopkins  
Supervisor – District 5, Sonoma County, Board of Supervisors