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August 30, 2011

The Honorable Judge Keith Self
Collin County Judge
Collin County Commissioners Court
2300 Bloomdale Road, Suite 4192
McKinney, Texas 75071

Dear Judge Self,

Thank you for working with the nine remaining accredited Collin County Public Libraries to determine how we best move forward in providing equal access to critically important library resources for all citizens of the county.

As we previously requested, we ask that the Commissioners Court sustain the overall funding level that has been in place for the last three years, which currently represents just under \$.38 per capita, by simply removing Plano from the funding formula and redistributing their portion of the funds to the libraries that will fulfill the additional, significant needs created by Plano's withdrawal. A precedent for this action occurred last year when Celina became an accredited public library, and were added to the funding formula, with no commensurate raise in the budgeted funds.

Should the Court vote, however, to extract the money that would have been paid to Plano in FY 2012, the resulting funding level would not allow us to sustain the program in its current form. Based on our collective knowledge and experience, Plano's action will drive patrons in unincorporated areas or cities without library service to utilize services at the remaining nine libraries, further taxing our declining resources.

Once adequate funding is secured for FY 2012, we look forward to examining our shared expectations for this program as it moves forward, and to considering a new funding structure. Over the next fiscal year, we want to work with the Court to develop a funding formula that addresses the Commissioners' expectations for the program and enables participating libraries to meet County residents' vital need for the services our libraries provide.

Thank you for so carefully considering our request.

Sincerely,

Beth A. Scudder, Director
McKinney Public Library System
- representing the Collin County Public Libraries

McKINNEY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

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www.mckinneypubliclibrary.org