

March 10, 2024

The Honorable Matthew Holtkamp
District 4 Commissioner
Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners
75 Langley Drive
Lawrenceville, Georgia 30046

Dear Commissioner Holtkamp:

I am writing on behalf of the City Council of Sugar Hill and myself to request consideration for funding for a new library in downtown Sugar Hill from this current SPLOST or a future SPLOST. We are currently the fourth largest city and the only municipality of our size in Gwinnett County without a library dedicated specifically to our community. Our residents access library offerings at either the old Buford-Sugar Hill Branch or the Suwanee Branch in downtown Suwanee.

The Gwinnett County Public Library System (GCPL) has long recognized the need for expanded or new library facility offerings in our part of Gwinnett County. In 2021, GCPL initiated the attached *Facilities Master Plan*, and I have highlighted some of the key findings below:

“Buford-Sugar Hill requires a significant amount of renovation. Built in 1989, over thirty-years ago, most systems have reached the end of their useful life. Over the past ten years, it has not undergone any significant renovations and at 10,624 square-feet, it is undersized.”

“Buford-Sugar Hill and Collins Hill will be rebuilt and relocated as 20,000 square-foot libraries on [a] new sites. The current facility and location of the facility do not meet the criteria of our guiding principles....”

It is our understanding that, in addition to potential SPLOST funds from Gwinnett County, there could be other funds available for the project. Library project grants for up to \$3 million are also available by appropriation from the Georgia General Assembly through the University System of Georgia (USG) and can be asked for by the local legislative delegation.

Thank you for your consideration, and please let me know if I can answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Brandon Hembree
Mayor

C: Taylor Anderson, Council Member
Meg Avery, Council Member
Alvin Hicks, Council Member
Joshua Page, Council Member
Gary Pirkle, Council Member
Paul Radford, City Manager
Troy Besseche, Assistant City Manager
Cindy Pugh, Finance Director
Jane Whittington, City Clerk