

MAR 08 2017

7:00 P.M. COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AGENDA NO. 11

Jo Ellen Kesti, 694 Brickyard Boulevard,

I support the Mayor's proposed library partnership. I have been a city resident my entire life. I have two small children who live in the city limits and attend Sedro-Woolley schools, and my husband has been a city employee for almost 17 years.

Both my husband and I graduated from Sedro-Woolley Schools, and we have a lot of pride in our community. A few weeks ago I decided that I would like to have a city library card for the first time, and I went into the city library to get one. Once I arrived, I was denied a library card because the address on my Drivers license did not match my current address even though both addresses were inside the city limits.

The staff at the city library was not helpful, and the experience left me feeling very awkward and unwelcome. I would almost call the experience bazar. I have had several other people tell me similar stories, and I feel this is just not right to treat people this way.

It should not be so difficult for a city resident who is the wife of a city employee to get a library card. There should be no obstacles to people who want to read and learn and use the services that our taxes pay for. I don't want anybody else to have to experience this embarrassment, and I believe all school district residents should have access to the same library.

I have a friend with two children who lives just outside the city limits. Our kids all attend Evergreen Elementary. We live inside the city limits, and they live just outside the city limits. I believe that we should be able to take our children together, to the same library regardless of where we live in the Sedro-Woolley school district.

I thank the mayor for his leadership on this issue and urge the city council to support this proposal, and not give into the negative and sometimes hateful comments that I've seen some people make at council meetings on video. When taxpayer resources are so tight, it makes so much sense to join together in partnership to provide a modern library that is welcoming to everybody in our school district, regardless of the address on their drivers license.

Thank You,