



## **THE COUNCIL CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS MARION COUNTY**

January 5, 2022

Dear Indianapolis Public Library Board of Trustees,

The Indianapolis Public Library is a critically important institution in our city, not only educationally, but culturally. It provides a safe and creative space for residents of all ages to learn and grow and helps bridge the digital divide in our community by offering free access to computers and the internet. It's a vital early learning resource for our city's children, a place where our immigrant and refugee neighbors can access language services, and an anchor for civic programs in our neighborhoods.

As Councillors, we value the commitment and independence of those who serve on the Indianapolis Public Library board. They've brought the library through a series of truly unprecedented challenges and transitions over the past two years, including an extended national search for the library's next CEO. Board members have given careful consideration to every step of the search process and worked diligently to develop a field of candidates with the qualifications and imagination to lead the library in the coming years.

In spite of their hard work, however, the Indianapolis Public Library board's search for a new CEO has to date resulted in more instability and turmoil for the institution rather than less. Given the ongoing public outcry about the board's choices in regard to selecting a permanent CEO, we feel it necessary to make our position clear.

As Councillors with a responsibility to provide oversight of our city's municipal corporations, we've watched with concern the growing and repeated discord between members of the library's board, its union, and the public. The search for the library's next CEO has been expensive, both in terms of dollars and in terms of the library's relationship with its community. We believe the library board's recent decision to reopen the CEO search rather than appoint Ms. Nichelle Hayes will have a detrimental impact on the system.

Patrons and staff of the Indianapolis Public Library need and deserve a stable institution in whose leadership they have confidence and in whose governance they have a sense of agency. As a third-generation resident of Indianapolis and an alumna of Indianapolis Public Schools, she is keenly aware of and deeply invested in the strengths and needs of the city the library serves.

Unless there are issues of which we have not been made aware, we ask the Indianapolis Public Library board of directors to heed the calls of our community and appoint Ms. Nichelle Hayes as the Indianapolis Public Library CEO.

Sincerely,

Vop Osili, President

Zach Adamson, Vice President

Monroe Gray, Chair of Municipal Corporations Committee

Ali Brown, Councillor

Crista Carlino, Councillor

Duke Oliver, Councillor

Ethan Evans, Councillor

Keith Graves, Councillor

La Keisha Jackson, Councillor

Kristin Jones, Councillor

Jason Larrison, Councillor

Frank Mascari, Councillor

Jessica McCormick, Councillor

Keith Potts, Councillor

David Ray, Councillor

Leroy Robinson, Councillor