

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA, WITHDRAWING FROM THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM, ASSUMING THE PROVISION OF LIBRARY SERVICES IN THE CITY OF PALM DESERT, AND INDICATING ITS INTENT TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

WHEREAS, the City of Palm Desert is currently part of the Riverside County Library System, a county-free library system pursuant to Education Code section 19100 et seq. (“RCLS”); and

WHEREAS, at its meeting on April 4, 2023, the City’s Parks and Recreation Committee established a subcommittee to study issues related to library operations; and

WHEREAS, at its meeting on May 2, 2023, the Parks and Recreation Committee made recommendations for City Council consideration including that the City provide enhanced services for the upcoming year, take over the management of the library, and potentially assume the County’s lease of the library building, or alternately purchase the portion of the library building occupied by the Desert Community College District; and

WHEREAS, the City Council received the Parks and Recreation Committee’s recommendations at a Study Session on May 11, 2023, during which the City Council directed City staff to research the option of assuming complete control of the Palm Desert Library and operating it as a municipal library; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting on June 8, 2023, the City Council voted to form and appoint a Library Taskforce; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting on June 22, 2023, the City Council received a presentation and research updates from City staff regarding options for enhancing services at the Palm Desert Library, after which the City Council unanimously voted to endorse the formation of a City of Palm Desert municipal library; and

WHEREAS, the City of Palm Desert desires to withdraw from the Riverside County Library System; and

WHEREAS, as required by California Education Code Section 19106, the City of Palm Desert published once a week for two successive weeks, in a newspaper designated by the City circulating throughout the City, notice of the City’s intent to withdraw from the Riverside County Library System, assume the provision of library services in the City, and establish an independent municipal library, and such notice provides the date and place of the meeting at which these contemplated actions are proposed to be taken; and

WHEREAS, on October 12, 2023, the City Council of the City of Palm Desert held a public hearing on the matter of withdrawal from the Riverside County Library System and intention to establish an independent municipal library; and

WHEREAS, as required by California Education Code Section 19116, the City is authorized to withdraw from the Riverside County Library System and assume responsibility for providing public library services by notifying the Board of Supervisors of Riverside County that the City no longer desires to be a part of the county free library system and indicating whether the City intends to acquire property pursuant to subdivision (c) of California Education Code, Section 19116; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to withdraw from the Riverside County Library System as of July 1, 2024, or upon the transfer of any property, whichever is later, and to provide library services directly to the public as a municipal library.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Palm Desert, California, as follows:

Section 1. That the above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. The City Council of the City of Palm Desert hereby approves the withdrawal from the Riverside County Library System and determines and directs that City staff notify the Board of Supervisors of Riverside County that: a) the City no longer desires to be part of the county free library system, b) the City desires to assume the County's lease with Desert Community College District of the library building and to acquire all mutually agreed upon personal property within, c) as of July 1, 2024, or upon the transfer of property, whichever is later, the City of Palm Desert will withdraw from the Riverside County Library System and shall assume the responsibility for the provision of library services within the City's jurisdiction, and d) the City requests that the County shall take all necessary actions to redirect to the City, effective July 1, 2024, residual property tax funds and pass through funding pursuant to the Education Code and to redirect such funds to the City annually thereafter.

Section 3. The City Council hereby directs staff to begin negotiations with the County, regarding the lease of the library building and contents, the transfer of funds for library operations, and the drafting of an agreement regarding these and all related matters, including the unwinding of previous agreements related to the library, in accordance with California Education Code, Section 19116.

Section 3. The City Council hereby expresses its intent to establish an independent municipal library and directs staff to take all necessary steps and actions in order to effectuate the transition of the Palm Desert Library from the Riverside County Library System to a municipal library.

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Section 5. The City Clerk shall certify passage of this Resolution.

ADOPTED ON _____, 20__.

KATHLEEN KELLY
MAYOR

ATTEST:

ANTHONY J. MEJIA
CITY CLERK

I, Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk of the City of Palm Desert, hereby certify that Resolution No. 2023-__ is a full, true, and correct copy, and was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Palm Desert on _____, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

RECUSED:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Palm Desert, California, on _____, 20__.

ANTHONY J. MEJIA
CITY CLERK