

Appendix C383

May 21, 2009 Correspondence from Trina R. Reed, Director of the Uniondale
Public Library

UNIONDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY

PHILIP J. COSGROVE MEMORIAL BUILDING

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May 21, 2009

Mr. Drew M. Napolitano, AIA, NCARB
Project Executive
Lighthouse Development Group
1600 Old Country Road, Suite 101
Plainview, New York 11803

Dear Mr. Napolitano,

I am writing on behalf of the Uniondale Public Library Board of Trustees. It is hard to believe that it was over a year ago, that our Board was invited to meet with representatives of the Lighthouse Development Group in the Rex Corporate Plaza office, on April 21, 2008. I must say how impressed I was with the presentation. As we looked at the video and the model, Mr. Sweet (Board President at the time) and I, began to envision where you could place a small "café" style library in your Entertainment District.

When you and I met on August 14, 2008, you requested a letter of support from the Board and information regarding how we felt the Lighthouse Project would impact our library. The Board did not feel they were in a position to provide that information at that time. The Board Members and I have attended several of your community outreach events over the past year. Mr. Henry Holley and Ms. Katrina Doell asked to attend our February 18, 2009 Board Meeting, to address any concerns and answer questions that the Library Board may have had. Now, after careful consideration the Library Board is prepared to respond.

The Uniondale Public Library currently serves a population of 25,288 of which 13,918 are registered library borrowers; another 189 patrons have "work-in district" cards. In 2008, approximately 98,549 people visited the library. Our total holdings equaled 131,634 in 2008. I am happy to say that the Uniondale Public Library is heavily used by our current residents. Although we recently expanded

our facility in 2006, to a total of 31,000 square feet, on most days you cannot find an empty seat in our library, both in the afternoons and evenings. When we hold large community events, such as the library's annual program, "Uniondale: A True Global Village", our 250 seat theatre is standing room only. In fact, the whole library is filled to capacity. Our main concern with the Lighthouse Project is, how the addition of your 2,300 residences and the thousands of permanent workers will impact our ability to continue to provide our level of outstanding library service to our community.

We do not think we could meet the demand with our current facility and staff. We think the best way to serve the demand which will be created with your project, is to build a small library branch (4,000 – 7,000 square feet) on the Lighthouse property. We hope the Lighthouse Development Group will partner with the Uniondale Public Library to create a modern "café" style library to fit in with your design and vision of the Lighthouse Project. The library would include a special collection of sports related material to help support the sporting program you have planned in your "Sports Complex and Sports Technology Center".

The Uniondale Public Library's Board would support the Lighthouse Project if we knew we could be guaranteed, to work together to provide appropriate library service to the expanded community your project would bring to Uniondale.

Please see the enclosed Uniondale Public Library history, to give you an idea of where the library started from and how it was first conceived. I have also included copies of our welcome information, library newsletters and monthly Calendar of Events, so you have an idea of what we provide for our community.

Sincerely,



Trina R. Reed
Director

Enc.
TRR/gn

Uniondale Public Library History

When Uniondale was a small farming community, there was no public library, although many had often talked and hoped for one. On January 7, 1954, a group representing various community organizations met and elected the Uniondale Library Association. The Chairman of the Association was Dr. Philip Cosgrove, for whom our library is now named. At that time, Dr. Cosgrove was also the President of the Uniondale Kiwanis Club. It was the insight, imagination and love for education from Philip Cosgrove, and the dedicated efforts of fellow Kiwanis members, that created the Uniondale Public Library.

The chosen building selected to house the new library was the old St. Martha's Roman Catholic Church; a structure, built around 1830, that had also, fifty years earlier, served as the first schoolhouse in Uniondale. Since manpower and funds were desperately needed, all of Uniondale was called on to help. The Ways and Means Chair, Muriel Fishbein headed a full scale membership drive, in which volunteers canvassed Uniondale, raising over \$1,000.00. Hofstra College donated desks, tables and many books. Persans Hardware supplied the brooms and paint. Philip Cosgrove, known as a "jack of all trades and a one man army" gave most of his spare time with the Kiwanis Club, painting and installing shelves and window panes. The Uniondale Public Library officially opened its doors on September 1, 1954 under the supervision of Mrs. Ruth Ann Hawthorne and Mrs. Helen Graves. A volunteer staff was trained to serve the people. After one full year of operation, the library had issued almost 1,200 library cards and had built a collection of over 7,000 books. During that time, library service operated solely on the volunteer efforts of the community, without tax support.

In May of 1958, the Uniondale Library District was approved by voters. The library district included the entire school district. The first Library Board was elected on July 19, 1958. The library received a Provisional State Charter on December 19, 1958. On February 10, 1959, Assemblyman Spino introduced legislation to re-establish the Uniondale Library District in the unincorporated area of the school district. The second vote to approve the present Library District was held on June 20, 1959. In 1963, the Special Library District was established, severing ties with the school district.

In October of 1965, the library moved to its present location, a new building at 400 Uniondale Avenue. The new building with over 14,000 square feet of floor space and fully air-conditioned, had a public meeting room as well as special rooms for periodical storage and for children's story hour. On October 13, 1973, the library building was named in honor of the late Philip J. Cosgrove. In January 1991, the building was renovated to include an elevator and other improvements to make the building ADA compliant and more energy efficient.

On January 29, 2002, the Town of Hempstead approved a bond to expand and renovate the building. The expanded building is now 31,000 square feet. The expansion included an increase of the computer facilities for the public, including both children and adults. There is complete handicapped accessibility to all library collections. The Children's Room now has a large Story Hour Room. Special areas for *English for Speakers of Other Languages* and *International Language Collections* were added. Shelf space was added for book collections and audio-visual collections. Quiet Study Rooms and Group Study/Tutoring Rooms are now available. The addition of a larger Meeting Room accommodates our growing community. The expanded Administration/Business Office and Technical Services Offices better accommodates computerized operations. According to the 2000 Census, we are chartered to serve a population of 25,288. The library's holdings include 131,634 books, periodicals, audio visuals and other library materials. In 2008, we offered 782 educational and cultural programs in which 13,201 people attended. In January 2009, we opened a Computer Classroom/ Training Center on our lower level. The classroom is also used to hold GED and ESOL classes, job preparation workshops and other programs.