

#2

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Councilor Albright supports the following Resolution.

Whereas the Library's collection of print and digital materials is at the heart of the library

Whereas, due to inflation, the cost of producing these materials has increased by over 7.7%* over the past year due to inflation in the cost of paper caused by world events as well as the publishers increase in the cost of ebooks,

Whereas the library collection has been level funded for the last two years and is level funded again this year which actually represents a decrease in ability to purchase materials due to inflation

Whereas in the last fiscal year there were about 45,000 library card holders, 402,000 visitors to the library, and circulation of over 1.7 million items we can see the large percent of Newton residents who benefit from our library collection,

Whereas we understand that the library director plans to use funds raised privately to supplement the library collection,

We resolve that the mayor must increase funding for the library collection to at least keep pace with inflation which is estimated at 7.7%. We ask that the funds raised privately be supplemented by city funds so that the funding for this line item will be increased by \$53,000 to account for inflation. Funding for this item could be taken from free cash certified in October 2024.

* <https://bookriot.substack.com/p/how-much-have-book-prices-increased> which tracked book price increases since 2019 @ 7.7%. <https://www.economist.com/britain/2022/09/08/books-are-physically-changing-because-of-inflation> - this article explains the rise in the price of paper.