



Sacramento Public Library Authority

January 27, 2011

Agenda Item 7.0: Arden-Dimick Library Incident – Proposal to Offer a Reward for Information

TO: Sacramento Public Library Authority Board Members

FROM: Rivkah K. Sass, Library Director

RE: Arden-Dimick Library Incident – Proposal to Offer a Reward for Information

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Adopt Resolution 11-01, A Resolution for Actions Needed in Response to the Fire and Resulting Damage at Arden-Dimick Library, and to Establish A Reward Fund.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

At approximately 3:20 a.m. on Monday, January 3, 2011, an unidentified individual dropped a Molotov-cocktail type device into the book return at the Arden-Dimick Library. The device ignited a small fire in the book return area (a 6x8 closet in the staff area), where approximately a thousand items had been returned over the holiday weekend. The fire set off the sprinkler in the room and initiated the fire alarm, which alerted the Sacramento Metro Fire Department who arrived at the facility at approximately 3:30 a.m.

The fire had already been extinguished by the sprinkler by the time fire personnel arrived, but the sprinkler continued to shower water until fire personnel had gained access to the building and were able to shut off the sprinkler. Water from the closet soaked the carpet and the base of the drywall in the staff and public service areas. No computers or other electronic equipment were damaged by the water or the fire, and the only materials damaged were those in the book return.

The restoration company, Belfor, mitigated the damage using dryers and dehumidifiers to dry the carpet and walls. They also took moisture readings to determine the damage to the drywall as well as conducting an asbestos test. The results determined that asbestos abatement measures would be required to replace the drywall, delaying the reopening of the branch until Saturday, Jan 8.

Video surveillance footage from the library's external cameras has been provided to the Sac Metro Fire Investigator. The footage shows an individual from the waist down walking up to the book return with the device, shows this individual lighting the device and dropping it into the return. Sac Metro Fire also has a hammer, brick pieces, and remains of the device that were collected from the scene. Metro Fire is leading the investigation.



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The insurance adjuster recommended replacing the carpet to prevent the possibility of mold growth. In addition, damage to the wallpaper in the public area will have to be addressed. Carpet replacement will require a one-week closure of the branch, which will be coordinated with staff and nearby branch libraries.

Materials in the book return were left in place until after investigators completed their initial review, and have now been checked in and cleared from patron records. A book restoration company has been contacted, who feels many of the hardcover books may be recoverable. Staff is determining whether paperbacks, periodicals and media that were in the book drop are salvageable. The Collection Services Department is working to assess the value of the books lost, and seek replacements for these materials as soon as possible.

The total loss amount, including building repairs and books and materials, is estimated at approximately \$150,000, which will be covered by **the Library's** insurance policy. The Library has a \$10,000 deductible on this policy that will need to be paid.

Policy Issues

Government Code section 53069.5 allows a local agency to offer and pay a reward, the amount thereof to be determined by the local agency, for information leading to the determination of the identity of, and the apprehension of, any person whose willful misconduct results in injury or death to any person or who willfully damages or destroys any property.

Staff recommends establishing a reward fund in the amount of \$_____ . Staff will coordinate with Sacramento Crime Alert, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that assists local law enforcement agencies such as the County **Sheriff's Department and the Sacramento City Police Department**, to handle tips from citizens and to administer the reward. Sacramento Crime Alert provides a telephone number and Web tips to encourage citizens to submit vital information helpful to law enforcement agencies to fight against crimes.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution 11-01, A Resolution for Actions Needed in Response to the Fire and Resulting Damage at Arden-Dimick Library, and to Establish A Reward Fund.



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RESOLUTION NO. 11-01

Adopted by the Governing Board of the Sacramento Public Library Authority on the date of:

January 27, 2011

A RESOLUTION FOR ACTIONS NEEDED IN RESPONSE TO THE FIRE AND RESULTING DAMAGE AT ARDEN-DIMICK LIBRARY, AND TO ESTABLISH A REWARD FUND

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SACRAMENTO PUBLIC LIBRARY AUTHORITY AS FOLLOWS:

- 1.** Payment of the \$10,000 insurance deductible in relation to damages incurred as a result of the January 3, 2011 fire and resulting water damage to the facility and materials is authorized.
- 2.** A Reward Fund in the amount of \$_____ is established.
- 3.** The Library Director is authorized to execute all documents necessary to establish the reward fund.

Roberta MacGlashan, Chair

ATTEST:

Rivkah K. Sass, Secretary

By: _____
Brenda Haggard, Assistant Secretary