

Testimony Submission – Gael Cheek – April 7 – FY2027 Operating Budget (Addendum)

I have presented, as written testimony, a petition with over two hundred signatures asking that Sunday hours be restored to the Potomac Library. I am presenting this petition in my role as member of the Potomac Library Advisory Committee.

The Potomac Library Advisory Committee is united in requesting that the proposed savings amount of \$624,864 that has been included in the 2027 budget be restored so that all County Libraries can remain open on Sunday in the future. We would also like to request that all Libraries which are currently closed on Sundays be reopened now. Director Graham has indicated to our Library Board Liaison that she might be willing to be flexible and restore either partial hours or opening without programs and services on Sundays.

We collected these 200 signatures from Patrons on the submitted petition asking that the Potomac Library be reopened on Sundays. These signatures were collected in the Library in a relatively short period of 2 hours on 4 Saturdays. Given more time, I could have collected many more signatures.

Access to Public Libraries is important and sometimes crucial to a citizens of all ages and in all Council Districts. High school students need a place to study on Sundays. Patrons told us that they wanted a place on weekends that was free of cost where they could take their children. They also told us that driving to Rockville which is over five miles away and parking in Downtown Rockville was hard for them and that they would be less inclined to use the Library.

I have sent a scan of the petition as a previous document.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Gael Cheek