



CUDAHY FAMILY LIBRARY

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November 9, 2019

Paul Ziehler, President
Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS)
709 North Eighth St.
Milwaukee, WI 53233-2414

Dear Mr. Ziehler and the MCFLS Board of Trustees:

The Cudahy Family Library Board signed the 2020 – 2024 MCLFS ILS, Resource Sharing, and Technology Agreement (IRST Agreement) at its meeting this morning. We also noted that 2020 marks the 35th anniversary of Cudahy's membership in the system. Enclosed please find the two signed copies as requested in your correspondence dated October 1, 2019.

The Cudahy Family Library Board was pleased to see for our anniversary year that the concept of local autonomy was still included in the 2020 - 2024 IRST Agreement. The fear of losing local authority and control was one of the primary reasons the Cudahy Public Library did not join MCFLS in 1972. We appreciate the ability to make decisions that meet the needs of our community with local tax dollars, while sharing resources with other communities with the assistance of a federated library system.

The Cudahy Family Library Board was not pleased to see the further erosion of reciprocal borrowing payments in the 2020 – 2024 IRST Agreement. During the review of the document, our Board could not help but wonder if it is the intention of the MCFLS Board to gradually decrease and finally eliminate the concept of reciprocal borrowing from the IRST Agreements. We sincerely hope this is not the intent. While statutory requirements and payment arrangements vary, nearly all public libraries in Wisconsin are reimbursed for circulation to nonresidents.

Our Library Boards have supported the principle that a municipality should be reimbursed for its circulation of materials to non-residents since our first payment to the County of Milwaukee in 1935. This principle was supported by consultant Gail Ostler and the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council of Milwaukee County (ICC) in their early studies on reciprocal borrowing in 1995 and the ICC again in 2003 - 2006. While we are aware that the next review of reciprocal borrowing will be challenging, we are hoping that the fundamental principles of municipal responsibility can be incorporated back into the equation.

Sincerely,

Thudung Do Tieu, President
Cudahy Family Library Board