



Hennepin County Administration

Richard P. Johnson, County Administrator
A2303 Government Center
xth Street
Minnesota 55487-0233

612-348-7574
FAX: 612-348-8228
TDD: 612-348-7367
www.hennepin.us

09 - 0724

January 15, 2009

Hon. LeRoy A. Stumpf, Chair
Senate Education Committee
Senate E-12 Education Budget and Policy
Division
Capitol Building, Room 208
75 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Hon. Sandra L. Pappas, Chair
Senate Higher Education Committee
Senate Higher Education Budget and Policy
Division
Capitol Building, Room 120
75 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Hon. Tom Rukavina, Chair
House Higher Education and Workforce
Development Finance and Policy Division
477 State Office Building
100 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Hon. Mindy Greiling, Chair
House K-12 Education Finance Division
381 State Office Building
100 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Hon. Carlos Mariani
House K-12 Education Policy and Oversight
Committee
563 State Office Building
100 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senate and House Education Chairs:

Enclosed please find the report required to be sent to you pursuant to Minnesota Statute section 473.757, subdivision 2, relating to the uses of excess sales tax revenues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Richard P. Johnson'.

Richard P. Johnson
County Administrator

Cc: Hennepin County Board of Commissioners

Attachment

REPORT TO LEGISLATURE PURSUANT TO MINN. STAT. SECTION 473.757, SUBD. 2

Background

Minn. Stat. § 474.757, subd. 2 authorizes Hennepin County, by resolution, to make certain expenditures for increased library hours and youth activities and youth and amateur sports from excess revenues, if any, from the sales tax enacted for the new Twins ballpark. The same legislation also requires Hennepin County to make a report by January 15, 2009 describing any such uses of the money. The report must be made to the chairs of the committees and budget divisions in the Senate and the House of Representatives that have jurisdiction over education policy and funding.

Report

The Hennepin County Board took action on March 28, 2008 (Resolution #08-0118) to open 13 libraries throughout the county on Sundays from 12 PM to 5 PM, for a total of 65 additional hours per week. Under the resolution, the following 13 libraries were opened as of June 1, 2008 for the additional hours:

Augsburg Park	Minneapolis Central
Brooklyn Park	North Regional
Champlin	Oxboro
East Lake	Rockford Road
Golden Valley	St Louis Park
Hopkins	Westonka
Hosmer	

The plan was designed to be financially sustainable in order to ensure the stability and longevity of the additional hours. Since the 1.5 percent growth factor provided for in the legislation is not sufficient to cover reasonably anticipated increases in annual operating costs, the plan adopted by the Board uses some of the funds for a reserve to assure that the action is financially sustainable for at least nine years.

The County is still evaluating options to fund youth activities and amateur sports. As part of the evaluation process the County has enlisted input from a variety of concerned parties and experts. It is expected that policy decisions will be made in 2009.