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DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

**NEW CASTLE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD (LAB)
ANNUAL REPORT CY 2018**

A. Members

The LAB consists of a chairperson and twelve members of which six members are representatives from various Friends groups. The Chair serves at the pleasure of the County Executive. The Chair and Members are appointed by the County Executive with the advice and consent of County Council. A list of members is attached.

At present the Board has a Chairperson and eight members and three vacancies.

B. Functions

The LAB shall advise the County Library Manager by reviewing and making policy recommendations on such matters as local library needs; implementation of an effective library system; new and modified administrative policies; and other strategic planning and operational issues pertinent to the operation of the County's libraries.

C. Accomplishments

Members were actively engaged in their advisory role for 2018. The Board met in January, February, March, April, May, June, September, October, and November for regular meetings.

In addition to regular meetings, Board members participated in the following events:

- Tours of the NCC southern libraries: Delaware City Library, Corbit-Calloway Memorial Library and Appoquinimink Library.
- Delaware Legislative Day, April 24, 2018
- NCC Reads program with author, Christina baker Kline, *Orphan Train*
- Representation on the Council on Libraries
- Library Town Meetings – The Future of Public Libraries: From Access to Outcomes, featured speaker Garry Golden in June and One Ask: advocacy training in December with speakers Cathy DeRosa, Doug Denison, and Kay Bowes.

The Board exercised due diligence in reviewing library budgets utilization, benchmarks, and maintaining excellent service levels in an increasingly diverse environment characterized by diminishing resources.

The Board advocated for both state and local funding.

The Board monitored facility issues.

Sub-committees were established for Site Selection, Advocacy, Facilities Maintenance, Bylaws, Materials & Acquisitions and Friends Groups.

The Board monitored trends in library collections, programming and services.

D. Challenges

The LAB would like to ensure the County's commitment to libraries given current financial challenges.

The Board would like to see all vacancies filled and reappointments made.