



Bartow County Library System

Cartersville Public Library • Adairsville Public Library • Emmie Nelson Public Library

429 West Main Street • Cartersville, GA 30120 • Phone: 770-382-4203 • Fax: 770-386-3056
www.bartowlibraryonline.org

Dr. Lamar Veatch, State Library Director
Georgia Public Library Service
1800 Century Place, Suite 150
Atlanta, GA 30345-4304
September 11, 2009

Dear Dr. Veatch,

The Bartow County Library System Board of Trustees is requesting a Maintenance of Effort Waiver due to a reduction in local funding of \$45,007. The City of Cartersville reduced our funding by 10%, or \$50,500, but offset that by releasing \$50,500 in impact fees which were able to use for materials. The Bartow County Government reduced our funding by 6.3%, or \$54,000. The Board of Trustees balanced the budget by reducing 2 non-public service positions to part-time, eliminating one part-time page, reducing library hours of operation by 2 hours weekly, and further reducing materials and public programming. Every effort has been taken to maintain public service as staff assumes additional duties or work additional hours in public service departments.

The attached documentation provided by the City of Cartersville and Bartow County Government demonstrate the equitable reduction of funding to the library in relation to their department budgets. County employees are under furlough, their paid holidays have been reduced, and operational budgets reduced by 6.35%. The City of Cartersville reduced operational expenses by 16%; library funding was reduced by 10%. Neither funding agency was able to commit to a restoration of funding for Fiscal Year 2011. Library director Carmen Sims discussed the future reduction in library services which will result from these funds not being restored for FY2011. Some library staff will have to be eliminated which will result in a reduction of hours or operation. The funding agencies are also aware that the waiver is for FY2010 and does not affect FY2011.

The Board of Trustees will continue to discuss the financial situation of the library with government officials and appeal to the Cartersville City Council directly during budget discussions for FY2011. The loss of state funding is very serious and detrimental to the Bartow County Library System. This point, plus the value of services provided by GPLS grants and services will continue to be stressed by Board members to funding officials.

We hope that you will grant this Maintenance of Effort waiver request as the Bartow County Library System provides a valuable service to all residents of Bartow County. We have just opened a new facility in Euharlee which will result in increased use of that branch. The Adairsville and Cartersville library use continues to increase as more people use libraries for free internet service, free computer access, free computer training, free family programming, and access to free educational, recreational, and cultural

material. Our Cartersville library provides free classes in English as a Second Language four nights a week. Adult programs provide community information in finances, mortgages, insurance, and other timely topics of concern. Children flock to our free programs from baby time to the Teen Advisory Board. Without state funding, we would be unable to provide these services to a deserving community. Please consider our request to waive the Maintenance of Effort agreement at this time.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Kordecki". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Don Kordecki,
Chair, Bartow County Library Board of Trustees