

September 15, 2010

Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive
Room 737, County/City Building
930 Tacoma Avenue South
Tacoma, WA 98402

Dear Ms. McCarthy:

On September 14, 2010, a citizens' panel interviewed candidates for a vacancy on the Board of Trustees of the Pierce County Library System. This panel screened applications and selected six candidates to interview. The panel was composed of Keri Rooney, Executive Director – External Affairs (a representative from your office), Eugene Matsusaka and Steve Albers, library trustees, Lisa Korsma, Pierce County Library Foundation Board and Deborah Mortell, citizen/library user.

The panel has asked that I forward the name of Linda Hurley Ishem to you and request her appointment to the Board of Trustees of the Pierce County Library System to fill the unexpired term of Eugene Matsusaka, from October 16, 2010 to February 14, 2014, in accordance with RCW 27.12.

The panel carefully considered the roles and responsibilities of the Board, current issues facing the library system and the current make-up of the Board, skills and experience. The panel unanimously recommends Linda Ishem to the Board of Trustees. I have enclosed her application for your information.

We advertised the vacancy in *The News Tribune*, *Puyallup Herald*, and *Peninsula Gateway* and other local newspapers. Announcements were placed in local Chamber of Commerce newsletters, posted in individual branch libraries and on the library's website. A total of 17 applications were received (3 candidates withdrew).

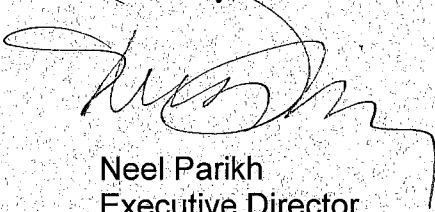
Linda Hurley Ishem is a Professor of Urban Studies at University of Washington – Tacoma. Prior to receiving her Ph.D. at the University of Washington, she served as the Director of Pierce County Department of Community Services. She also has over ten years experience in banking (at the Vice-President level) and small business development. She has served on community boards, currently a member of the Non-Profit Center board and the Northwest African-American Museum Community Conversations facilitator. Past Board memberships include United Way of Pierce County and Tacoma/Pierce County Convention and Visitors' Bureau. She is a University Place resident.

Like all jurisdictions, The Board is currently facing major issues relating to funding. Current projections show that the Pierce County Library System tax revenue will decline in the next two years and grow at a very slow rate over the next five, with increases at or below about 1%. The library is facing a decline in revenue of \$500,000 in 2011, at the same time the City of Fife has annexed to the library district and a new facility will be opened in leased space in Fife. The library passed a re-authorized levy in 2006, promising to maintain services for the voter. Over the next few years, the Board of Trustees will help guide the library system to maintain quality service in light of reduced resources.

Linda brings to the Library outstanding experience in public policy and public administration, combined with a true understanding of the civic role of libraries. In addition, in her experience as Director of Community Services brings knowledge of the broad diversity of the communities in Pierce County. As she states in her application, she appreciates "...the significance of libraries to the quality of life in local communities and the well-being life chances of their residents." We expect that Linda has much to contribute to the Board of Trustees.

Thank you for support of this interview process and particularly for lending us the expertise of Keri Rooney to represent the Pierce County Executive's Office. Keri was an outstanding participant and provided valuable insights into the discussion, reviewing all 14 applications, the criteria used to select candidates for interview and notes taken during the interviews with 6 candidates. If you should have any questions about the process or the Panel's discussion, I'm sure she would be happy to discuss it with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neel Parikh', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Neel Parikh
Executive Director

Enclosures