

M E M O



Date: July 27, 2012

To: Chair Stephen Albers and Members of the Board of Trustees

From: Clifford Jo, Finance & Business Director

Subject: 2012 Distinguished Budget Award

In February the Board requested that we submit the 2012 budget to the national Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for review and consideration as a distinguished budget. The Library submitted the budget narrative to GFOA by the due date, which was 90 days upon December's approval by the Board of Trustees. GFOA assigned three voluntary and anonymous peers of mine from somewhere in the United States or Canada to review our budget document.

Neel and I received the results on Friday, July 20. We are happy to announce that the Library's budget received the 2012 Distinguished Budget Award from the GFOA. Attached are GFOA's letter, certificate, scoring sheets, and reviewer comments. Also included is the letter sent to Neel.

Areas of particular strength were in Library Priorities and Issues, Strategy, and Revenue. In Library Priorities and Issues, all three reviewers rated us Outstanding. This criterion is directly measured by the Board's and Neel's messages in the budget narrative.

There is room for improvement. Two areas in particular were called out: performance measures and the impact of capital investments on the operating budget. Prior to submission, we were already aware of the performance measures and work is well underway to deliver on this. I was forthcoming in the submission and stated that the Library did not have the kind of performance measures GFOA recommends and will be working on it during 2012. The other area, impact of capital investments on the operating budget will need some groundwork discussion and can be included in the current work we are doing regarding capital planning. Note that although these two scored very low, they were not mandatory requirements for the award. In all mandatory areas we were scored as Proficient or Outstanding.

GFOA lists awardees on their website, staggered by three years. The latest list is from 2009. In 2009, I found only one library system awarded, Columbus Metropolitan Library, a large library system in Ohio with revenues approaching King County Library System's. A search on the Internet showed that in 2010, another library system had been awarded, the Rangeview Library District in Colorado, also known as the innovative "anythink" library system. At this time, I don't know how many libraries have received the award in 2012, but it seems reasonable we're around the third library in the nation. In 2009 there were 44 Washington State public entities that were awarded, most were cities and counties, some in our Library District, including Pierce County, and cities of Bonney

Lake and University Place.

Please know that the award reflects the hard work that you provide as Board members to the Library. It is through your thoughts, decisions, and feedback that makes the Library's fiscal management held high in the eyes of GFOA.

As of 2012 GFOA has 17,500 members in the United States and Canada and is one of the older associations, having been formed in 1906. Its website is www.gfoa.org.

I will spend a few minutes during the Board meeting to go over this with you and invite your feedback as to what we collectively did well and what we could do better.



Government Finance Officers Association
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Chicago, Illinois 60601-1210
312.977.9700 fax: 312.977.4806

July 11, 2012

Ms. Neel Parikh
Executive Director
Pierce County Library System
3005 112th Street E
Tacoma, WA 98446-2215

Dear Ms. Parikh:

I am pleased to notify you that Pierce County Library System, Washington has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the current budget from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and represents a significant achievement by your organization.

When a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is granted to an entity, a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation is also presented to the individual or department designated as being primarily responsible for its having achieved the award. This has been presented to:

Clifford Jo, Finance & Business Director

We hope you will arrange for a formal public presentation of the award, and that appropriate publicity will be given to this notable achievement. A press release is enclosed for your use.

We appreciate your participation in GFOA's Budget Awards Program. Through your example, we hope that other entities will be encouraged to achieve excellence in budgeting.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Gauthier, Director
Technical Services Center

Enclosure



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PRESS RELEASE

For Further Information Contact
Stephen J. Gauthier (312) 977-9700

Chicago--The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) is pleased to announce that **Pierce County Library System, Washington** has received the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget.

The award represents a significant achievement by the entity. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the entity had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

- a policy document
- a financial plan
- an operations guide
- a communications device

Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

When a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is granted to an entity, a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation is also presented to the individual or department designated as being primarily responsible for its having achieved the award. This has been presented to **Clifford Jo, Finance & Business Director**.

For budgets including fiscal period 2010, over 1,289 entities received the Award. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

The Government Finance Officers Association is a nonprofit professional association serving nearly 17,400 government finance professionals throughout North America. The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.