FINAL DRAFT

Dear Council,

In the interest of maintaining, and even growing, the quality of life in our community, we advocate for an increase of the Corpus Christi Public Library (CCPL) budget for our city in FY2025-26. This would facilitate hiring much needed personnel, both full and part time.

When comparing Corpus Christi with 14 other Texas cities, both larger and smaller, we are #8 in population. However, we do not rank appropriately in FY2025 when compared with these cities in multiple areas:

- The percentage of our General Fund allocated to our Libraries is 1.8%, well below the average of 2.64%, and places CCPL 12th out of the 15 cities.
- The Library budget dispersed over our 6 Libraries places us 13th, with the amount ($1.03M) that is just over one half of the group average ($1.91M).
- A result of this low amount of funding is reflected in CCPL (9.8) being last (15th) when compared to the other cities for the average number of staff available (19.6) to serve at each Library.
- Lastly, our standing is 12th out of 15 when considering dollars per capita (19.53 vs 30.75) based on population and Library budget.

Though there is a potential increase of funds for the Library department in the FY2025-26 proposed budget, the percentage of the General Fund for CCPL is still well below the 15-city average of 2.64%. We are in favor of raising that number to at least 2% of the General Fund, which is still significantly below the 2025 average, in order to more effectively finance our community Libraries. We ask that these funds be available in the Operating Expense category for Expenditures in the Proposed FY2025-26 Budget. This allowance will enable hiring personnel for such positions as a full time **Library Assistant(s)**, a Collection Development Manager and/or a Reference Librarian.

Thank you for your consideration for our Corpus Christi Public Libraries and the pivotal role they play in our City by the Sea.

Respectfully,

The Corpus Christi Library Advisory Board

Alice Hawkins	Dolores Rabon	Joan Carrillo
Carrie Moore	Dora Wilburn	Melinda De Los Santos
Carroll Matthews	Jennifer Anderson	Pat Craig