

CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Finance Committee

September 15, 2015

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF KENT STATE'S
CLEVELAND URBAN DESIGN COLLABORATIVE REGARDING THE SOUTH
BRANCH OF THE CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY**

WHEREAS, In 2011, the Cleveland Public Library commissioned a facilities assessment by Westlake, Reed, Leskosky in order to determine the status of the architectural, structural, mechanical and electrical condition of the Library's branches, including the South Branch located at 3096 Scranton Road; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, the Board of Trustees of the Cleveland Public Library determined it necessary to close the South Branch in order to consider repairs that needed to be made to the building and the future use of the building, and temporarily moved the operations of the South Branch to a location at 2704 Clark Avenue; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, the Library made repairs to the roof, exterior walls, foundation and other parts of the South Branch on Scranton in order to preserve the building and prevent any further deterioration of the structure while it considered the future use of the building; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, the Library entered into an agreement with Kent State University's Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative to engage the Cleveland community in substantive conversations about the Library's current service model, the changing demographics of the city, the Library's fiscal situation, and the condition of the neighborhood branch buildings; and

WHEREAS, On June 25, 2015, David Jurca on behalf of Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative made a presentation to the Board's Finance & CPL150 Ad Hoc Committees regarding their findings concerning the first group of branch communities to be studied which included the neighborhood served by the South Branch; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jurca stated that the Advisory Committee of residents and stakeholders in the South Branch neighborhood, formed as part of the Library's engagement process, recommended that the Carnegie building

on Scranton Road be reopened. Their recommendation also noted that the community expressed a need for larger spaces for community programming and gathering, and recommended that the Library consider expanding the rear of the building to allow for more internal space as originally planned in 1911, but never completed; and

WHEREAS, This Board desires to reopen the South Branch on Scranton Road to the public; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board accepts the recommendations of the Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative report dated June 2015 concerning reopening the South Branch located on 3096 Scranton Road; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board hereby authorizes the Executive Director, CEO and his designees, to move forward with taking the steps necessary to obtain estimates, send out requests for qualifications and proposals for architects and engineers, and such other actions as may be appropriate in order to effectuate the repairs and improvements necessary to reopen the South Branch on Scranton Road in accordance with priorities set forth in the facilities assessment prepared by Westlake, Reed, Leskosky in 2011; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board directs the Executive Director, CEO and his designees, to investigate the feasibility of improving the building by constructing an addition onto the building, as well as the feasibility of the other recommendations made in the Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative report concerning the interior and exterior of the South Branch.