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DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

**NEW CASTLE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD (LAB)
ANNUAL REPORT CY 2019**

A. Members

The LAB consists of a chairperson and twelve members of which six members are representatives from various Friends groups. The Chair serves at the pleasure of the County Executive. The Chair and Members are appointed by the County Executive with the advice and consent of County Council. A list of members is attached.

At present the Board has a Chairperson and nine members. There are three vacancies.

B. Functions

The LAB shall advise the County Library Manager by reviewing and making policy recommendations on such matters as local library needs; implementation of an effective library system; new and modified administrative policies; and other strategic planning and operational issues pertinent to the operation of the County's libraries.

C. Accomplishments

Members were actively engaged in their advisory role for 2019. The Board met in January, February, March, April, May, June, September, October, November and December for regular meetings.

In addition to regular meetings, Board members participated in the following events:

- Delaware Library Legislative Day, May 2019
- Governor's Town Hall, February 28, 2019
- NCC Reads program April 10-11, 2019. Library Advisory Board members were involved in the book selection of *Mudbound* by author Hillary Jordan. Companion program being offered at selected libraries, "The Original Black Panthers 761 Tank Battalion" presented by Dr. Abdullah Muhammad.

- Three Public Engagement meetings for the NCC Southern Library
- County Executive's Public Town Hall Meetings – April 24, 2019/Brandywine Hundred Library; April 30, 2019/ Route 9 Library and May 6, 2019/Newark Library.
- DLA Library Town Hall Meetings – June 6, 2019 on Libraries Building a Resilient Delaware through Trauma Responsive Services and December 1, 2019 on Transitions and Transformation.

The Board advocated for both local and state funding and attended county and state budget hearings.

The Board received regular updates from staff including presentations on new collections, programs and services as well as marketing initiatives.

Board Training was provided by Assistant County Attorney Aysha Gregory.

The New Castle County Ethics Commission provided training to the Board.

Sub-committee reports were provided on Advocacy, Bylaws, Facilities Maintenance, Friends Groups, Materials & Acquisitions, School Partnerships, Policies, Site Selection, Renovations and New Libraries.

The Board monitored trends in library collections, programming and services.

D. Challenges

The LAB would like to support the County's ongoing commitment to libraries.

The Board would like all vacancies filled and reappointments made.