

**From:** [Lauren Sapudar](#)  
**To:** [Grace Schmidt](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Save the Cupertino Library Commission  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 31, 2018 4:03:24 PM

---

---

**From:** Tara Sreekrishnan [mailto:tarasreekrishnan@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 31, 2018 2:57 PM  
**To:** City Council <CityCouncil@cupertino.org>  
**Cc:** Christie Wang <cwang@cupertino.org>; Liana Crabtree <lcrabtree@cupertino.org>; Amanda Wo <awo@cupertino.org>; Rose Grymes <rgrymes@cupertino.org>; Gopal Kumarappan <gkumarappan@cupertino.org>  
**Subject:** Save the Cupertino Library Commission

*Letter to the Cupertino Courier*

printed on July 20th

Within the next month, City Council is likely going to consider dissolving the City's Library Commission — a body of appointed volunteers which advises the council on the functions and status of the City's only library. Cupertino is rich in its remarkably overlooked politics which are often of meaningful consequence. And a merging of the Library Commission with the Parks and Recreation Commission is no exception.

Now, of course, the council is not out to arbitrarily dismantle residential participation in this sphere. Some members believe commission loads are too light, costs could be cut (the commission cost the City about \$24,000 last fiscal year), and that the exceeding demand for Cupertino Community Hall rentals would free up if the commission were to be eliminated.

While these are understandable concerns, the proposed solution is regressive in nature.

This motion — currently supported by a majority of the council — would effectively render us the only city in the Santa Clara County Library District without a commission solely focused on libraries.

This makes no sense when you consider just how pivotal the Cupertino Library is as a centerpiece of the city. It's by far the busiest library in the county by any metric.

Espousing ubiquitous academia in the form of our high achieving public schools and community college means that we must also ensure key components of that learning are maintained. And that means ensuring residents continue to have an influential say in the adequacy of library services and the renting of library community spaces.

**If commissions are underutilized, we should be focusing on greater community outreach, rather than simply eliminating them.** And in terms of Community Hall overbooking, the City should focus on creating more community spaces for revenue generation, rather than simply shuffling around which groups get preference.

Costs might be saved by eliminating the Library Commission, but budgets are ultimately a statement of values. As someone who grew up here and attended Portal, Kennedy, and Monta Vista, libraries were always like my second home. My mother was a Cupertino Public School Librarian. The faculties which allow for the Cupertino Library's greatness are well within the values of Cupertinoans; I just hope they are within the values of the council too.

Thank you,

Tara Sreekrishnan

---

Total Control Panel

[Login](#)

To: [citycouncil@cupertino.org](mailto:citycouncil@cupertino.org)

Message Score: 1

High (60): **Pass**

From:

My Spam Blocking Level: High

Medium (75): **Pass**

[tarasreekrishnan@gmail.com](mailto:tarasreekrishnan@gmail.com)

Low (90): **Pass**

[Block](#) this sender

[Block](#) gmail.com

*This message was delivered because the content filter score did not exceed your filter level.*