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NEWS RELEASE

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Media Advisory

Commissioner Steve Bradshaw to allocate \$4 million for library improvements in District 4.

In tomorrow's Board of Commissioners meeting Commissioner Steve Bradshaw will present an agenda item to reprogram \$4 million that was previously allocated for the potential building of a new library facility in Wade Walker Park.

"After consultation with our Library Director and the DeKalb County Law Department I have determined that building a new library in Wade Walker Park is simply not feasible", says Commissioner Bradshaw. "The two primary reasons for this determination are *1. Cost* and *2. Disputed Land Use.*"

According to Library Director Alison Weissinger, "Building a new library costs from \$6 million - \$8 million." Only \$ 4 million is available for a proposed Wade Walker Library.

Moreover, according to the County Law Department, there is a question regarding whether the specific area of property at Wade Walker Park to potentially be used for a library is grant-restricted. This remains unresolved because of a lack of documents of old grant agreements. "This strikes me as a complication that could impede progress," asserts Commissioner Bradshaw. "Why would we want to go down this path?"

Commissioner Bradshaw's proposal before the Board of Commissioners seeks to reprogram the \$4 million allocation as follows:

\$1.5 million to refurbish the **Sue Kellogg Library** in Stone Mountain.

Up to \$2million to refurbish the **Covington Library**.

The remaining \$500k will be held in reserve to address any potential shortfalls or directed to possible cosmetic improvements at the **Clarkston Library**.

“I am committed to making policy decisions that enhance the quality of life for citizens in District 4”, says Commissioner Bradshaw. “This allocation of resources is a sensible use of taxpayer dollars. These enhancements to DeKalb County Libraries will greatly improve the experience of library patrons across the district.”