November 17, 1995

DRAFT

Mayor Terry Howley
Members of Decatur City Council
City Manager James C. Bacon Jr.

The Board of Trustees of the Decatur Public Library approved in their regular November 16, 1995 meeting requesting of the City of Decatur a levy request of $2,269,574 for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 1996. Included in this levy request is the $63,000 needed for employee salary and fringe benefits for the extra payroll period which will occur during FY 96. Without the extra payroll period costs, this levy request represents a 3.38% increase over the current levy of $2,134,390. Our current levy amount has remained the same for the past two years.

This levy request will enable the library to meet the 3% wage increases mandated by our contract with bargaining unit employees, increase the materials budget to keep pace with increases in material costs, and continue desired services such as our Sunday hour schedule.

We have discussed with you the library's need for central site facility changes in order to adequately serve Decatur residents into the 21st century. If such changes will take longer than the FY 96 period to put into action, there are certain immediate building needs that the Board requests be addressed in the city's FY 96 capital budget. The library's lower level carpeting as well as part of the first floor carpeting is the original carpeting installed in 1970 and is heavily worn. To replace this carpeting would cost $40,000. In addition there have been reoccuring problems with air conditioning compressors for the past three years. Changes to address this situation would cost $. Thus we are requesting that $ be placed in the city's FY96 capital budget for these necessary items.

The Board again expresses appreciation for the Council's interest in, and concern for, library services as evidenced by the discussions we have had with Council during this past year. We stand ready to discuss our request with you at any time.

Sincerely,

John Stengel
President
Decatur Public Library Board of Trustees