



City of Arts & Innovation

Board of Library Trustees

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES **DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2016**

FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

SUBJECT: UPDATE OF POLARIS INTEGRATED LIBRARY SYSTEM FEATURES AND IMPLEMENTATION – RIVERSIDE 2.0 STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY 2

ISSUE:

Receive an update of the features and implementation of the Polaris Integrated Library System (ILS).

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Library Trustees receive and file this report.

BACKGROUND:

On February 25, 2014, the City Council appropriated \$35,000 to the Library Department as a match for the E. Rhodes and Leona C. Carpenter Foundation Grant for the Polaris ILS. Polaris is an integrated automated library management system which will enable the Library to provide more responsive customer service through on-line eBooks and digital media.

On July 22, 2014, the City Council authorized acceptance of grant funds awarded to the Riverside Public Library Foundation on behalf of the Library from the E. Rhodes and Leona C. Carpenter Foundation in the amount of \$40,000 for the new Library database, Polaris.

On July 28, 2015, the City Council approved the agreement with Innovative Interfaces, Inc. (Innovative), for a software upgrade, license purchase, and annual maintenance of the Polaris Integrated Library System (ILS) in the amount of \$133,862 (the remaining balance of \$58,862 was available in the Library Gift Funds Account). The agreement was executed on July 29, 2016 and an implementation schedule was created with a deadline to go live set for March 2016.

The Library Department has worked with the Information Technology department on the Polaris upgrade and licensing to ensure the software package was compatible with Innovative and Information Technology Department's current operating environment. The Library Department's implementation of the new ILS is in an effort to provide a more robust, user friendly Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) for library users. The OPAC comes with additional features such as streamline 3M e-book checkout, user controlled access to reading history lists, and saved search lists. It also gives customers the ability to receive text and/or e-mail notification and receipts.

DISCUSSION:

On March 23, 2016, Polaris, a new 21st Century ILS, went live. The ILS is the backbone of all library services (i.e. acquisitions, cataloging, and item circulation) as well as customer-facing portal. Polaris is fully operational for item circulation and cataloging. The Library's ILS was last upgraded in 2003 to the Millennium ILS, a product of Innovative. Staff have refined internal and customer loan processes for optimal customer service. Staff received training on the new ILS which offers many tools for enhanced community engagement with library collections, resources and programs.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this update.

Prepared by: Tonya Kennon, Library Director
Approved by: Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager

Attachment: Presentation