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**CITY OF DANBURY**  
155 DEER HILL AVENUE  
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

**DAVID W. ST. HILAIRE**  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

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**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** MARK D. BOUGHTON VIA THE CITY COUNCIL  
**FROM:** DAN GARRICK, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE *DG*  
**SUBJECT:** RESOLUTION-PRAXAIR FOUNDATION GRANT-LIBRARY  
**DATE:** 11/29/2010

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Attached for your review is a resolution that will allow the City of Danbury Public Library to apply for and accept funding from the Praxair Foundation's 'Library Links' program.

This funding, not to exceed \$68,050, will be used to enhance public internet access and to purchase a microfilm system and shelving. There is no local match required.

The City Council is respectfully requested to consider this resolution at its next meeting. Please contact me should you require any additional information.

DG/sk

Cc: M. Hasskarl



# RESOLUTION

CITY OF DANBURY, STATE OF CONNECTICUT

\_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 2010

**RESOLVED** BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANBURY

**WHEREAS**, the Praxair Foundation has made funding available through its 'Library Links' program to the City of Danbury Public Library; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Danbury Public Library funding request will be used to enhance the library's public internet access, to purchase a digital microfilm system, and to purchase shelving and hardware necessary to relocate the Home & Family collection of books; and

**WHEREAS**, this request will not exceed \$68,050 and there is no local match required.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Mark D. Boughton, Mayor, or Mark P. Hasskarl, Library Director, as his designee, is hereby authorized to apply for and accept this funding and to execute all contracts, agreements or amendments necessary to effectuate purposes thereof.

### Praxair Foundation Funding Request

Please tell us how to reach you.

First name of applicant: Mark  
 Last name of applicant: Hasskarl  
 Email: [mhasskarl@danburylibrary.org](mailto:mhasskarl@danburylibrary.org)  
 Phone: 203-797-4512  
 Organization: Danbury Library  
 Street address: 170 Main St.  
 City: Danbury  
 State: CT  
 Zip code: 06810

Please tell us how we can help.

Amount for consideration: \$68,050

Purpose of donation/project description and benefit to community.

The Danbury Library has a plan to solve several problems related to its public computers located on the main floor. The proposed reconfiguration described below will benefit both the library's computer users and the library staff.

The Danbury Library currently has 15 public Internet computers available on its main floor. It also has 4 non-Internet computers there which have other software programs available, such as word processing and spread sheets. (An additional 23 Internet computers are available in the library's technology center; but because of staffing shortages and a city-wide hiring freeze, these computers are not available until 1:00 p.m. on weekdays. On weekends, they are available the same hours as the main library.) Most weekdays all computers are being used shortly after the library opens at 10:00 a.m., and customers must make a reservation in order to be able to use one of them at many other times of the day. The demand for the Internet has been very high since the recession began, and those computers are being used frequently for job searches, to complete online employment application forms, and to create resumes. The Danbury Library is the sole source of Internet access for many of its users, and more computers would certainly be used most of the time that the library is open. Just under 125,000 library customers used a library Internet computer during the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

A second problem with the current computer arrangement is that the screens are not visible by the staff members who work at the Ask Me (reference) desk. When they're not helping other library users, each Ask Me desk employee tries to walk around the two arrangements of computers (there are two groups of 10 computers each, with 5 computers on each side arranged back-to-back) to make certain that they're not being used for illegal purposes, such as viewing pornography. The fact that the library needs to ban customers

who still are able to view pornographic web sites indicates that the current arrangement of computers is far from ideal in terms of the staff's ability to monitor their use.

By relocating the 19 computers mentioned above to the area that currently houses the library's Home & Family book collection, the above problems would be solved. The number of Internet-accessible computers would double from 15 to 30. All 30 monitors would be visible from the Ask Me desk, and the library's security desk will be adjacent to the new arrangement of computers. Both of these factors should virtually eliminate illegal uses of the Internet in the library. (See the proposed floor plan which accompanies this application.)

The library also needs a new microfilm reader/printer since the older, analog machine can neither be repaired nor replaced since no manufacturer is making new analog reader/printers. The grant would allow the library to purchase a second digital reader/printer which would be located in the newly reconfigured area. The library's collection of *The News-Times* on microfilm is heavily used by researchers and genealogists, especially since there is no index for the local newspaper of record.

The requested amount will cover the expense of new computer furniture (the current furniture cannot be reassembled to allow the monitors to face in the same direction), the necessary electric and cabling work, the new book shelves needed to re-house the Home & Family section elsewhere on the main floor, and the new digital microfilm reader/printer.