

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### MEDIA ADVISORY

## Community Action Group “Save Rockrimmon Library” to Rally at City Council Meeting Tomorrow to Protest Planned Library Closure

**COLORADO SPRINGS, CO – November 12, 2024** – Save Rockrimmon Library

([www.SaveRockrimmon.com](http://www.SaveRockrimmon.com)), a dedicated community action group, invites local media to cover a critical rally taking place tomorrow, November 12th, at 1 PM in front of Colorado Springs City Hall (107 N. Nevada Avenue). The protest aims to spotlight the community’s objection to the Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) Board of Trustees’ recent decision to close the beloved Rockrimmon Library on December 1, 2024.

The protest is expected to draw a large crowd of community members wearing neon colors and holding signs to emphasize their unity in opposing the closure. With strong concerns about data transparency, budget priorities, and the future of public library access, the group will be urging City Council to allocate \$200,000 to keep the Rockrimmon Library open for another year, providing time to explore sustainable solutions.

### Event Details:

- **Date and Time:** Tuesday, November 12, 1 PM (media is encouraged to arrive by 12:30 PM)
- **Location:** City Hall, 107 N. Nevada Avenue
- **Visuals:** Large crowd in neon colors, signs supporting the library, and passionate community members both inside and outside City Hall.

### Key Talking Points:

1. **Data Does Not Support Closure:** Save Rockrimmon Library has researched the PPLD’s budget documents and Master Facilities Plan and found that the PPLD’s data does not justify closing the Rockrimmon Library. Based on PPLD’s Master Facilities Plan, Rockrimmon Library has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest circulation and 2<sup>nd</sup> highest usage efficiency out of all 15 PPLD libraries. This independent review of PPLD’s data shows the library’s overall cost and usage are not a reason for closure, but rather for expansion.
2. **Inadequate Stakeholder Process:** Until the October 16<sup>th</sup> vote, PPLD staff repeatedly assured the Northwest community that Rockrimmon Library was not in danger of closing. The Board of Trustees stated no closures would be considered until 2025. The Board misled City Council members, community leaders, and patrons. There were no Northwest community meetings to

discuss either the PPLD Master Facilities Plan or the impending closure. While this group has reached out the Board, the Board refuses to engage in a productive dialogue.

3. **Unjust Financial Priorities:** Rockrimmon Library is one of the most cost efficient PPLD libraries. It operates at a lower cost per citizen than many other facilities. The area contributes approximately \$1.2 million annually in PPLD mill levy taxes, but the Rockrimmon Library costs approximately half as much to operate each year.
4. **Community Hub at Risk:** This library is essential for Northwest Colorado Springs. It serves as a gathering space for community meetings, senior programs, student resources, and more. There are no other community centers in the Northwest area. The City funds 4 community centers in other areas of the City, paying an average of \$707,000 each, or \$2.8 million total, every year. If the PPLD Board of Trustees will not fund this library, it is in the City's best interest to keep this community center open.
5. **Concerns Over Equitable Access:** Other PPLD libraries cannot absorb Rockrimmon's patron base without causing significant inconvenience. Many residents specifically moved to the area for easy library access, and many patrons, including seniors and youth, rely on Rockrimmon Library for its accessibility. There is no bus service to this area, meaning residents without cars will lose access to libraries.
6. **Call to City Council for Accountability:** The group is calling on City Council to use its power to hold the PPLD Board accountable and to ensure all other budgetary solutions are fully explored before libraries are closed. Closing libraries is not the sign of a healthy community and should be the last option considered.
7. **Funding and Future Planning:** The group will present well-researched data and arguments for delaying the impending closure. They ask that the City Council consider including \$200,000 in the 2025 City Budget to keep the library open for a year while an adequate stakeholder process is implemented and other options are explored.

#### **Background:**

Save Rockrimmon Library was formed in response to the October 2024 PPLD vote to close the Rockrimmon Library, a decision that many in the community feel was made without adequate public input and against the library's mission of providing "equitable access to physical and virtual spaces in safe and inclusive environments."

This is a nonpartisan issue affecting residents of all ages and backgrounds in Northwest Colorado Springs. Rockrimmon Library's unique role as a community center provides critical services and spaces that cannot be replaced by other facilities in the area.

#### **Media Opportunities:**

- **Interviews** with passionate community members, including families, seniors, and local educators, about the importance of keeping Rockrimmon Library open.

- **Visuals** of the large, organized crowd, along with signs, banners, and neon attire, symbolize unity and determination.
- **Soundbites** on key issues, including budget transparency, community impact, and the urgency of maintaining local library services.

**Join us in capturing this community-driven story as residents of Colorado Springs unite to save their library and protect public resources.**

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**### About Save Rockrimmon Library** ([www.SaveRockrimmonLibrary.com](http://www.SaveRockrimmonLibrary.com)) Save Rockrimmon Library is a grassroots organization dedicated to preserving the Rockrimmon Library and ensuring that public libraries remain accessible and adequately funded for future generations in Colorado Springs.

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