



**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council**

**June 25, 2019**

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**SUBJECT: NAME OF NEW LIBRARY ON EAST LANCASTER**

As part of the FY2014 bond, a new family library is being built on East Lancaster. This branch will be a city-wide resource for children, teens, and their caregivers and will be the first family library in the Fort Worth Public Library system. At approximately 8,000 square feet, the library will focus on creating an environment of learning, dreaming and doing. The library is scheduled to open to the public in Summer, 2020 and will be located at 3851 E. Lancaster Ave., in between Haynes Ave. and Mt. View Ave.

It is no easy feat to name a public building that will have that name for decades. It is worthy of community engagement to get it right and in order to do this, the library went through a thorough process that included:

- An online submission process that brought in 123 unique name suggestions, many multiple times. 501 submissions were received at [fortworthlibrary.org/familylibrary](http://fortworthlibrary.org/familylibrary).
- Councilmember Gray, Meadowbrook Neighborhood Association President Tonya Ferguson, and the Fort Worth Public Library leadership team each picked their top 8 names.
- The top 5 overlapping names were put out on the library's website for a public vote and 826 votes were logged.

The name of Fort Worth's first children and teen focused location will be the **Reby Cary Youth Library**.

Mr. Reby Cary served Fort Worth in every way he was able. He was a veteran of World War II, and a leader in education, community activism, and politics.

Born in Fort Worth, Mr. Cary graduated from I. M. Terrell High School and received a history degree from Prairie View A&M College. His education was interrupted by World War II, but after serving in the United States Coast Guard as a radioman, he completed his Master's degree in history and political science (also at Prairie View) in 1948.

After helping establish the McDonald College of Industrial Arts for African-Americans in the Riverside neighborhood, Mr. Cary continued his work in education as a history and government instructor and counselor at Dunbar Middle School. In 1967, he shifted his career to higher education as an assistant professor of history at the new Tarrant County Junior College. Two years later, he was the first African-American professor hired by the University of Texas at Arlington, where he was instrumental in the transition of the school mascot from the Confederate Rebel to the Maverick. Mr. Cary was also a successful entrepreneur who established a real estate company and advocated for black chambers of commerce locally and at the state level.

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In 1974, Mr. Cary was elected to the Fort Worth ISD Board of Education, another first as an African-American. After four years in this role, he successfully campaigned to be Texas District 95 State Representative. While serving in this capacity, Mr. Cary helped pass legislation to create a state Human Relations Commission to fight discrimination. Additionally, he served on the Tax Appraisal Review Board and the Fort Worth Transit Authority Board.

Always passionate about recording and preserving history, Mr. Cary wrote numerous books detailing the efforts of individuals and organizations in Fort Worth and Tarrant County's African-American communities as civil rights activists and community leaders.

Fort Worth Public Library is proud to name a new library after such an influential Fort Worthian.

If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact Manya Shorr, Library Director at 817-392-7707 or [manya.shorr@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:manya.shorr@fortworthtexas.gov).

**David Cooke**  
**City Manager**