



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

March 10, 2026

Suzanne S. Levy, Chair
Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 324
Fairfax, Virginia 22035

Re: Oakton Library Renaming

Dear Chair Levy,

Below is a bit of history regarding then-Providence District Supervisor Gerry Connolly's role in creating the library in Oakton. At the time we were both very involved in the land use approval process – one of us as Gerry's land use aide (Supervisor Lusk), and the other as an at-large member of the Planning Commission (Supervisor Alcorn). It was a very active time in the Oakton community.

When Gerry became Providence District Supervisor in 1995, there was no library in Providence District. And there was an old land use fight about 15 acres of property along Hunter Mill Road across from the Giant, some of which was zoned commercial and some zoned low-density residential. The Board of Supervisors (Board) had denied a proposed rezoning for that property in 1995, and in 1998 another rezoning was proposed which was very unpopular with many Oakton residents. The Planning Commission and Board both held contentious public hearings with dozens of speakers, and on September 13, 1999 Gerry made the motion at the Board to deny application RZ 1998-PR-027, which passed unanimously.

Then something extraordinary happened. The representative for the applicant, Art Walsh, called Gerry the day after the denial and asked him what it would take for Gerry to reconsider the denial. Under parliamentary procedure this would be allowed at the next meeting, but it doesn't happen on major land use cases. It just doesn't happen.

But Gerry told Art he needed a library site and a few other items for the community, and at the next BOS meeting Gerry moved to reconsider the denial of the rezoning from the previous meeting – and the case was sent back to the planning commission with reduced density, a proffered traffic signal – and 3 acres for a library. See item 54 in the clerk's board summary at [BOS_1999-09-27.pdf](#). Ultimately a housing development with a library site was approved by the Board on May 22, 2000.

Subsequent to this, Linda Byrne spearheaded formation of the Friends of Oakton Library, and funding for the library construction came through the 2004 bond referendum.

There were many involved in making the library happen, but no one did more to make it happen than Gerry and therefore, it is appropriate for the library to include his name. Similar to the

renaming last year of the Fairfax County Library branch under construction in Vienna to the Vienna Carter Library, which recognizes the contribution of the Carter family for their role in creating library services for black Fairfax County residents, the Oakton Library should also reflect the Connolly name in recognition of his foundational role.

As the Board of Trustees weighs the pros and cons of renaming, I encourage you and the board to consider this background.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Walter Alcorn



Hunter Mill District Supervisor
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Rodney Lusk



Franconia District Supervisor
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

cc: Library Board of Trustees
Eric Carzon, Director, Fairfax County Public Library