



Lower Saucon Township

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On December 27, 2022, the Office of Commonwealth Libraries (OCL) approved a Plan submitted by the Hellertown Area Library (HAL) to remove Lower Saucon Township (LST) from the HAL direct service area. OCL had previously granted HAL "special approval" to remove LST from the direct service area prior to the expiration of the 10-year service period referenced in the Pennsylvania Code. The approvals issued by OCL mean that LST will not have a "home" library as of January 1, 2023. LST intends to challenge the OCL approvals and the law that permits them in the appropriate judicial forum. LST will also continue to seek cooperative, long-term, municipal and library "partners" who will work with the Township to provide sustainable library services in a fair and reasonable manner. LST will not sacrifice the long-term financial autonomy of the Township, nor cave in to unilateral financial demands, in order to achieve a short-term solution. This is an unfortunate situation, and LST will attempt to resolve it as quickly as possible. LST understands that this may be inconvenient and asks for your patience as we move forward. The 12/27/22 correspondence from OCL to HAL indicates that libraries may charge individual Township residents a fee for library services; and LST will reimburse residents up to \$40 per family if a library institutes this program for LST residents. The institution of such a program is completely up to the individual library, and LST has no control over whether a library makes such a program available to LST residents.