




Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Cohen and Members of the City Council

FROM: Geoff Dolan 

DATE: June 2, 2009

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Library Services to the Los Angeles County Honorable Board of Supervisors

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council send the attached Letter of Support for Library Services to the Los Angeles County Honorable Board of Supervisors.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

None.

DISCUSSION:

The County Library in the City of Manhattan Beach is a vital community resource. The Manhattan Beach branch is one of the most utilized libraries in the entire County system. It has one of the highest circulation rates and provides a wealth of resources, especially in children's programs to the thousands of residents that use the Library.

During this challenging economic climate, the City Council recognizes the value of library services in the community and asks the board to continue these services.

Attachments: A. Los Angeles County Library Commission letter of support for library services.



City Hall 1400 Highland Avenue Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
Telephone (310) 802-5000 FAX (310) 802-5001 TDD (310) 546-3

June 2, 2009

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

On behalf of the Manhattan Beach City Council, we would like to endorse the attached letter from the County Library Commission.

The Manhattan Beach Library has one of the highest circulations in the County and our children's programs are extremely impacted. These resources are vital to our community during these challenging economic times and are needed more than ever.

We appreciate the Board's commitment to library services in the City of Manhattan Beach and thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Mayor, Portia Cohen
City of Manhattan Beach

Fire Department Address: 400 15th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 FAX (310) 802-5201
Police Department Address: 420 15th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 FAX (310) 802-5101
Public Works Department Address: 3621 Bell Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 FAX (310) 802-5301

City of Manhattan Beach Web Site: <http://www.ci.manhattan-beach.ca.us>



County of Los Angeles Public Library Commission
7400 E. Imperial Highway, Downey, CA 90242

May 20, 2009

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The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

As chair of the Library Commission for the County of Los Angeles Public Library, I am writing on behalf of the Commission to urge that your Board continue support for the County Library.

The Commission is grateful for the Board of Supervisors' steadfast support of library service within the County of Los Angeles.

In this difficult economy, it is more important than ever that our libraries are open and available to provide service to our communities. As our users cope with the volatile economic situation, all of our libraries are experiencing increased demand for services such as computer access, programming, and books and materials.

As you are aware, the County Library has already experienced reductions in funding during the 2008/09 Fiscal Year. In Fiscal Year 2009/10 additional significant reductions are projected, including a -1% growth in property tax revenue and a 5% reduction in County General Fund support. Now we are also facing the threat of potential State borrowing of additional property tax revenues under the provisions of Proposition 1A. That additional loss would be devastating to County Library service.

The Library Commission supports the County Library's strategic vision for library service with the highest priority being the maintenance of open hours. We must, however, define "open hours" as a facility that is not only open to the public but also provides full computer access, access to new books and materials, and the assistance of professional staff to provide service and support to the public.

The Library Commission is confident that the Board of Supervisors will do everything in its power to maintain strong library service to our users. Thank you again for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph A. Cislowski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph A. Cislowski, Chair
Library Commission