

July 8, 2004

Mayor Michael Bloomberg
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

Manhattan Community Board 4 has always supported our public libraries and appreciates the significant impact they have on the lives of everyone living in the city. We are concerned, therefore, that further cuts to our public libraries will result in the following:

1. Four-day library service, something which has not existed since the fiscal crisis of the 1970's. Current year cuts have already resulted in the end of 6-day service, with most branches only able to offer 5-day service;
2. One hundred thousand fewer books – which translates into 1200 fewer books per branch;
3. Fewer adults reached by literacy programs;
4. Reduced technology, maintenance, and security – which will result in deteriorated equipment and facilities;
5. The loss of a major service to 100,000 children. Libraries are the only “after school program” option in every community;
6. The inability of the public to use the internet at no cost, since 90% of free access computers are located in public libraries.

Therefore, Community Board 4 urges you to restore funding to the libraries. They play a vital role in our community.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

cc: local elected officials
Columbus Branch Library
Muhlenberg Branch Library