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April 25, 2008

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Dear Library Foundation Friend:

As a supporter of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, you know the critical role the Los Angeles Public Library plays in providing everyone with free information and other educational and cultural resources.

In challenging economic times like these, people increasingly turn to the Library for the information they need to succeed in school; to explore job opportunities; to gain financial knowledge; to enhance their careers, and more.

But faced with a serious budget shortfall, the city leaders are proposing deep cuts to the Library's budget. These cuts will result in:

1. Reducing the book budget by \$2 million, a 22% reduction from last year's book budget and a 33% cut from two years ago.
2. Closing the eight regional branch libraries on Sundays.

Please join me in contacting the Mayor and City Councilmembers to express your support for restoring funds to the Library's budget. At a time when the library is experiencing record demands for its resources in every community, this invaluable institution must be adequately funded.

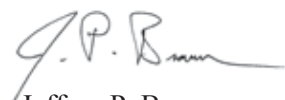
I have attached a message for you to send to the Mayor and City Council, as well as their contact information. **I encourage you to personalize the message with your own expression of what the library means to you and your community.** Even if you are not a resident of Los Angeles, your voice as a library advocate is important.

Immediate action is essential. The Mayor's Proposed Budget has been submitted to the City Council for review and approval. Starting April 28, the Council Budget and Finance Committee will hold public hearings and consider the budget. The Library budget hearing is scheduled for Thursday, May 1, in the afternoon at City Hall Council Chambers. The full City Council will consider the budget during the week of May 19.

The Library Foundation remains committed to providing funds that enhance—but do not supplant—city funding of the Library. But city funding is a priority, and I hope you will join me and express your support for the Los Angeles Public Library to the Mayor and City Council.

If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please contact Jeff Burbank, (213) 228-7587. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours very truly,


Jeffrey P. Brown
Chairman