

My name is Phyllis Wax and I live at 2330 E. Back Bay.

Re: The proposal to close libraries:

A city that is truly concerned about education does not underfund or close libraries. Not only do they benefit children, but libraries are neighborhood hubs, valuable resources.

Today, when investments have crashed and people are losing their jobs and homes, is not the time to close libraries. On the contrary, not only should they stay open, they should be open longer and later.

During the Great Depression the New York Public library was open Monday through Saturday 9 am to 10 pm and Sunday 1 pm to 10 pm. When people have no jobs and little money the library should be there for them.

If the neighborhood library is closed, children and the elderly may not be able to walk to another one and bus fare can require money that they don't have.

When people can't afford entertainment the library provides a place to go. Then, more than ever, the books, CDs and DVDs become intellectual stimulation or escape from daily reality.

Library computers are useful in job searches and preparing resumes, as well as providing on-line educational opportunities and a means to stay in touch with friends.

Government services become more important in tough times. Do not close **any** neighborhood libraries. Keep them **all** open and keep them open longer.

Thank you.