



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
CITY HALL
NEW YORK, NY 10007

TELEPHONE
212-788-7210

CHRISTINE C. QUINN
SPEAKER

January 12, 2005

Dear Neighbor,

As you may know, the New York Public Library (NYPL) has pooled together \$2.095 million of New York City Council (NYCC) funds since 1994 for the Jefferson Market Library. This funding was allocated by my predecessor in the Council, Thomas K. Duane, and by me. The NYPL requested these funds specifically for an interior renovation and to improve accessibility. The funding is accordingly earmarked and on reserve for specific projects.

Due to public concern, Community Board 2 involvement, a forum held by the Greenwich Village Block Association, and concern expressed by local elected officials, the NYPL is working with State Senator Duane and me to determine what the priority for the funding should be.

Besides the needed interior renovations including better ADA accessibility, critical exterior renovations are also needed. Scaffolding was erected over 2 years ago to protect pedestrians from falling debris. There are long-term concerns for the integrity of this historic structure. However, it is estimated that the façade project will cost between \$2.5- \$3 million, and that it could take until Fall of 2007 before the investigation of the existing conditions, conceptual design, and the drafting of the plans would be completed.

The NYCC finance staff is working with the NYPL to determine what funding, if any, can be moved. We do know that if we were able to switch the funds to another project, that approximately \$184,000 would not be recoverable.

We would like to hear from you. Please write with your thoughts on what the priorities for our neighborhood's library should be. Do you feel it is more important to maintain the funding for the planned interior renovations*, or to switch the funding to the exterior renovations?

The plans for the interior renovation are available online at www.gvba.org and are on display at the Jefferson Market Library. My office has recently requested that some sort of written explanation or "Frequently Asked Questions" be made available as well.