



BRIDGET QUINN-CAREY
DIRECTOR

December 21, 2010

CE

Honorable Barbara Miller-Williams
Chair of the Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street
4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Dear Chairwoman Miller-Williams:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System, I am calling on the Erie County Legislature to work together to provide funding to the Library System as soon as possible.

The Board of Trustees is prepared to limit the reduction of hours to member libraries and branches as of January 1, 2011 based on an additional allocation of funds from the County.

While steep increases in costs and reductions in funding will still necessitate cutbacks in services and staff, additional funding from the County will mitigate the effects of these funding challenges for one year and enable libraries to remain open each week to at least meet state minimum standards. The Board has also approved the expenditure of the \$2.6 million in undesignated fund balance to provide the support services required to maintain additional open hours.

People's lives are in the balance – those of our dedicated staff and loyal public who rely on libraries for the resources and services they need.

Without confirmation of the funding as soon as possible, the System will be forced to implement the drastic and austere plan approved by the Library's Board of Trustees. This translates to having some libraries only open 16 hours per week.

IM 6

Letter to Honorable Barbara Miller-Williams

December 21, 2010

Page 2

I am requesting that you finalize the 2011 funding for the Library System now so we can move forward with delivering library services and continue to plan for our future.

Sincerely,



Sharon A. Thomas

Chairwoman

SAT/mb

cc: John Davis

Robert Graber

Erie County Legislature