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LIBRARIES

January 22, 2014

Hon. Bill de Blasio
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Renovation of NY Public Library's Schwarzman Building

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

I am writing in regard to the planned renovation of the New York Public Library's ("NYPL") Stephen A. Schwarzman Building ("Central Library"), located on Fifth Avenue at 42nd Street, which is in my district. I commend your leadership as New York City Public Advocate in opposition to this project and urge you to take immediate action to ensure it does not move forward.

Like you, I am deeply concerned about several of the proposed changes, notably the proposal to displace the historic stacks, dramatically reducing the number of readily available research volumes and increasing the wait time for materials. As a result, the Central Library's function as one of the world's premier research facilities will be significantly diminished.

I am also staunchly opposed to the proposal to sell off the Mid-Manhattan Library and Science, Industry and Business Library branches and consolidate their contents within the Central Library in a space less than one-third their current combined size. If this plan proceeds, an additional two million Mid-Manhattan and SIBL patrons will be squeezed into the already crowded Central Library.

Opposition to the plan in the local community is widespread among academics, researchers and community members, many of whom are my constituents. Groups opposing the plan include labor union DC 37, the Historic Districts Council and

Hon. Bill de Blasio

January 22, 2014

Page 2

numerous community groups. In part this is due to the lack of public input and consultation during the development of the plan. Another reason is the plan's exorbitant cost, which continues to rise. In 2008, costs were projected to be \$250 million. Today, they are estimated to be over \$350 million.

I support your prior call for an independent, evaluative review of the financial risks associated with the current plan that considers alternate uses of funds to help preserve the NYPL's valuable collections in the Central Library and in the Mid-Manhattan Library as they stand. Further, I urge serious reconsideration of the cultural and educational value that would be lost if this project were to proceed as proposed, and ask that you consider redirecting the capital funds the Bloomberg administration allocated to this plan for more cost-effective projects that advance the NYPL's mission.

Time is of the essence. Currently, community groups are calling for a public, independent review process to begin, but the renovation plan continues to move forward rapidly.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent request. I look forward to your continued leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,



Brad Hoylman
New York State Senator
27th District

cc: Simeon Bankoff, Executive Director, Historic Districts Council
Susan Bernofsky, Committee to Save the NYPL
Lillian Roberts, Executive Director, DC 37