

May 19, 2008

Council Member Raymond L. Tretheway, III
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Council Member Tretheway:

On behalf of the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library Board of Directors, I thank you for your previous support of libraries, including your work on the Library Authority Board. The Sacramento City Council is facing some tough decisions in the next month. With the budget shortfall, all city services will face cuts, including the Sacramento Public Library. This will mean reduced hours of service – one entire day – at five SPL branches: Belle Coolidge, Colonial Heights, Martin Luther King, Jr., North Natomas and South Natomas, but we know it cannot be helped.

As I am sure you will agree, libraries are so important in the life of a community. The children's programs and wonderful books available there help instill in kids the desire to read that is the key to all education. Libraries provide to adults a free resource for continuing self-education, entertainment and the expansion of one's world. For low-income people libraries offer the great equalizer, a place where they can go to prepare a resume on a computer and submit a job application via the Internet service that they cannot afford at home.

We urge you to continue your support for this important community service by limiting cuts to the proposed 8.8%.

Sincerely,

Cherril A. Peabody
President