

09-1399-S1

MOTION

JUL 08 2009

A recent Controller report entitled "Performance Audit of Public Access to the Library's Books and Materials" highlighted that the Library Department is committed to ensuring equitable access to its free services. The audit also made several findings and recommendations that may further improve service to its patrons and their communities.

As the audit noted, a slowing economy leads to greater interest in local libraries for people to take advantage of the many free offerings. The Library Department has reported that the number of annual visitors has increased 12 percent over the previous fiscal year. During the same period, expenditures for books and materials remained constant at just under \$10 million. However, the upcoming 2009-10 budget contains a 30 percent decrease in the department's budget for books and materials. This is a drastic cut that will affect the level of resources our libraries can provide the communities they serve.

The audit recommendations included developing standard guidelines with branch libraries to allocate budgets and track expenditures, improving inventory tracking, and meeting target deadlines for books in-transit. However, effectively addressing these recommendations is dependent on the Department's current resources and identifying the impacts of the Department's budget reductions. This includes maximizing community access to libraries as proposals are considered to reduce library branch hours.

The Controller also released a "Performance Audit of the Los Angeles Public Library's 2007-2010 Strategic Plan" that indicated that the Department does not periodically reassess its strategic plan to ensure that it reflects current priorities and considers available resources. These issues should be considered in the development of its next strategic plan, which should occur in partnership with the Library Commission.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Library Department be instructed to report on how the Department's budget reductions and proposed branch closures will affect its ability to implement the recommendations identified in the Controller's "Performance Audit of Public Access to the Library's Books and Materials," and which recommendations are most likely to generate cost savings to the Department.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Library Department be instructed to report on how it will address the recommendations in the Controller's "Performance Audit of the Los Angeles Public Library's 2007-2010 Strategic Plan" in its next strategic plan, and how it will engage the Library Commission in this process.

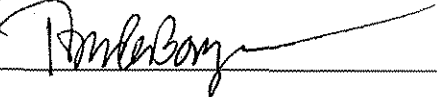
I FURTHER MOVE that these reports be included in response to the City Controller's Performance Audits, which will be considered by Council's Audits & Governmental Efficiency and Arts, Parks, Health & Aging committees.

PRESENTED BY:


JOSE HUIZAR

Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY:



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