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## **Council member Margaret Chin joins Library Day Rally**

New York, NY – Today, Council member Chin joined Council member Vincent Gentile and Council member James Van Bramer at a rally to keep our public libraries open. Presidents of New York City’s three library systems -- New York Public Library, Brooklyn Public Library and Queens-- and representatives from DC37, urged Mayor Bloomberg to recognize libraries as an important public resource and to encourage the preservation of funding for libraries in the coming FY2012 budget.

Council member Chin called our community to action: “This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New York Public Library; it is also the year when the doors will close at many of our City’s public libraries. Our libraries are essential cultural and educational resources in our communities. The mission of our public libraries is to advance knowledge, inspire learning, and strengthen community ties. These are noble goals. Public libraries have adapted to changing times and the needs of recent immigrants. They offer language courses, adult literacy classes, and even ebooks. Libraries are ready and willing to evolve to meet the demands of our diverse communities and future generations. To roll back this progress is shameful. It is another swipe at social services primarily used by underserved communities.”



As part of Mayor Bloomberg’s Preliminary FY2012 Budget, library funding would revert to levels not seen in more than a decade. Libraries would lose the \$61.5 million in funding the Council successfully restored in 2010 negotiations as well as \$19.7 million in additional cuts. At the same time, demand for library services is at an all-time high.