



New York City Council

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Hearing on the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2011 Executive Budget

Libraries

June 4, 2010

Committee on Finance

Hon. Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., Chair

Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations

Hon. James Van Bramer, Chair

Joint with Select Committee on Libraries

Hon. Vincent Gentile, Chair

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Summary and Highlights

Library services are provided through three independent systems: the New York Public Library (NYPL), the Brooklyn Public Library (BPL), and the Queens Borough Public Library (QBPL). These systems operate 209 local library branches throughout the City and four research library centers in Manhattan. The libraries offer free and open access to books, periodicals, electronic resources and non-print materials. Reference and career services, Internet access, and educational, cultural and recreational programming for adults, young adults and children are also provided. The libraries' collections include 377 electronic databases and more than 65 million books, periodicals and other circulating and reference items. The City provides for both direct operating support and energy costs in all facilities, which it does in part through prepayments in the current fiscal year.

Financial Summary for the Libraries

Dollars in Thousands

	2009 Actual	2010 Adopted	2010 Exec Plan	2011 Exec Plan	Difference 2010–2011*
Spending					
Research Libraries	\$31,946	\$28,101	\$26,931	\$18,970	(\$9,131)
NYPL	134,127	118,489	114,504	92,480	(26,009)
BPL	100,472	88,957	85,510	68,726	(20,231)
QBPL	99,763	87,156	83,456	66,566	(20,590)
TOTAL	\$366,307	\$322,703	\$310,401	\$246,742	(\$75,961)

**Adjusted for prepayments. Difference refers to the variance between the Fiscal 2010 Adopted Budget and the Fiscal 2011 Executive Plan.*

Budget Highlights

There is a proposed \$76 million loss to the three library systems for Fiscal 2011, which reduces the funding for the libraries to post-September 11th levels.

- Branch Closings.** With a total of \$31 million in funding reductions proposed for Fiscal 2011 in the Preliminary and Executive Plans, in addition to the exclusion of the \$46 million Fiscal 2010 Council restoration, the three systems would be forced to close a number of library branches throughout the City. After three fiscal years since the historic six-day service funding agreement of \$43 million in Fiscal 2008 between the Administration and the Council, the three systems would move from providing six-to-seven days of service to having branches closed and the remaining branches open during limited hours. There would be a total of 40 branches closed at the start of Fiscal 2011, if the reductions are implemented and the Council's funding is not restored: the NYPL would close 10 branches, the BPL would close 16 branches, and the QBPL would close 14 branches.
- Headcount Reduction.** In addition, headcount reductions would occur as a consequence of this reduced funding. The majority of the proposed headcount reduction would be through layoffs, not attrition. The projected layoff total for all three systems is approximately 1,500 positions, if all reductions are implemented from the Preliminary and Executive Plans.

Council Funding

The Council has routinely provided supplemental or restorative funds to the City's operational subsidy for the research and branch libraries to ensure that these libraries are able to maintain necessary service hours and materials for all New Yorkers. The Council provided approximately \$46 million to restore cuts in the 2010 Adopted Budget to the library system. This funding is not included in the Fiscal 2011 Executive Budget.

FY 2010 Council Changes at Adoption by Program Area		
<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>		
Research Libraries		
PEG Restoration		\$6,924
	Subtotal	\$6,924
NYPL Branches		
PEG Restoration		\$15,834
	Subtotal	\$15,834
BPL		
PEG Restoration		\$11,870
	Subtotal	\$11,870
QBPL		
PEG Restoration		\$11,870
	Subtotal	\$11,870
	TOTAL	\$46,498

New York Public Library System

The New York Public Library includes 86 branch libraries in the Bronx, Manhattan and Staten Island. The four research libraries are the Library for the Performing Arts located at Lincoln Center, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture located in Harlem, the Science, Industry and Business Library in Midtown and the main library on 5th Avenue and 42nd Street (Humanities and Social Science). In Fiscal 2009, the New York Public Library had a record high of 22.1 million in circulation and 17.9 million people in attendance.

Key Public Services Areas

- NYPL inspires lifelong learning by creating more able learners and researchers.
- NYPL advances knowledge by providing free and open access to materials and information that reflect New York's global perspective.
- NYPL strengthens the City's communities by promoting full citizenship and participation in society.

Critical Objectives

- Teach learning and information-navigation skills.
- Provide tools, resources, and great places to work.
- Identify, acquire, and preserve items that enhance NYPL's unique areas of expertise.
- Connect with other organizations whose materials complement NYPL.
- Promote the development of key skills and capabilities.
- Offer unique and authoritative materials of historical importance.

SOURCE: New York Public Library website

New York Public Library Financial Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	2009 Actual	2010 Adopted	2011 Exec Plan	Difference 2010–2011*
Manhattan	\$26,057	\$26,537	\$26,561	\$24
Bronx	24,568	24,722	24,737	15
Staten Island	10,237	10,298	10,303	5
Systemwide Services	71,902	55,570	29,517	(26,053)
Consultant & Advisory Services	1,362	1,362	1,362	0
TOTAL	\$134,127	\$118,489	\$92,480	(\$26,009)

**Difference refers to the variance between the Fiscal 2010 Adopted Budget and the Fiscal 2011 Executive Plan.*

New York Research Library Financial Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	2009 Actual	2010 Adopted	2010 Exec Plan	2011 Exec Plan	Difference 2010–2011*
TOTAL	\$31,946	\$28,101	\$26,931	\$18,970	(\$9,131)

**Difference refers to the variance between the Fiscal 2010 Adopted Budget and the Fiscal 2011 Executive Plan.*

The Fiscal 2011 Executive Plan

- **Budget Reductions.** The Fiscal 2011 Executive Plan has \$4.1 million in reductions in Fiscal 2011 and the outyears to the research and branch libraries. This is an addition to the \$9.9 million reduction proposed in the Fiscal 2011 Preliminary Plan. Furthermore, the plan does not include the \$23 million restored in the Fiscal 2010 Fiscal Adopted Budget, which would create a \$37 million subsidy deficit for the New York Public Library system.
- **Impact on Headcount.** The overall funding reduction would result in a loss of 928 positions with 736 positions eliminated through layoffs.
- **Impact on Service.** The system would close ten branches throughout the three boroughs it covers with the remaining branches open four days a week. The collections budget was reduced by 26 percent in the Fiscal 2010 Adopted Budget and any additional reductions would jeopardize the integrity of the collection.

Capital Program

The ten-year capital program for the research and branch libraries totals \$122 million. The majority of this funding will support capital improvements and reconstruction of the branch libraries in Manhattan, the Bronx, and Staten Island.

FY 2010 Adopted Capital Commitment Plan

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014-2019
Expansion and Construction	\$5,175	\$417	\$0	\$6,878	\$0
Improvements To Existing Facilities	37,797	2,002	2,000	3,814	0
Essential Reconstruction Of Facilities	53,134	167	727	2,087	6,048
Reconstruction Necessary To Maintenance	1,019	0	0	0	0
Support Services Improvements	516	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	\$97,641	\$2,586	\$2,727	\$12,779	\$6,048

Capital Highlights

- There are \$8.7 million in committed funds in Fiscal 2010 for the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture for Phase II of its building renovations.
- There are \$2.5 million in committed funds in Fiscal 2010 for the Central Library Master Plan project at the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building.
- The completion of three major projects for the system in Fiscal 2010: newly renovated branches at Battery Park City in Manhattan and Highbridge in the Bronx and the grand opening of its Library Service Center in Long Island City, Queens.

Brooklyn Public Library System

The Brooklyn Public Library consists of 60 branch libraries in the borough of Brooklyn including a Business Library and Central Library. Over the past year, the Brooklyn Public Library has seen its circulation rise about two percent or over 16.8 million and its attendance rise about seven percent or 872,000 people. Additionally, the use of holds, which allow customers to order a book when it becomes available for delivery to the library of their choice, grew by more than 13 percent or almost 1 million.

Key Public Services Areas

- BPL ensures the preservation and transmission of society's knowledge, history and culture.
- BPL provides the people of Brooklyn with free and open access to information for education, recreation and reference.

Critical Objectives

- To be a vital center of knowledge for all.
- To be accessible 24 hours a day through technology and quality service.
- To be a leader in traditional and innovative library services.
- To reflect and promote the diverse and dynamic spirit of the people of Brooklyn.

SOURCE: Brooklyn Public Library website

Brooklyn Public Library Financial Summary					
<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>					
	2009 Actual	2010 Adopted	2010 Exec Plan	2011 Exec Plan	Difference 2010–2011*
TOTAL	\$100,472	\$88,957	\$85,510	\$68,726	(\$20,231)

*Difference refers to the variance between the Fiscal 2010 Adopted Budget and the Fiscal 2011 Executive Plan.

The Fiscal 2011 Executive Plan

- **Budget Reductions.** The Fiscal 2011 Executive Plan has \$2.5 million in reductions in Fiscal 2011 and the outyears to the system. This is an addition to the \$6.2 million reduction proposed in the Fiscal 2011 Preliminary Plan. Furthermore, the plan does not include the \$11 million restored in the Fiscal 2010 Fiscal Adopted Budget, which would create a \$20 million subsidy deficit for the Brooklyn Public Library system.
- **Impact on Headcount.** The overall funding reduction would result in a loss of 484 positions with 350 positions eliminated through layoffs.
- **Impact on Service.** The system would temporarily close 16 branch libraries with the remaining branches providing five-day service. The other than personal spending budget was reduced previously, but there would be additional cuts in spending on programs, marketing/advertising, and staff development. These additional funding reductions may now cause the system to cut its spending on books and other materials which would jeopardize the integrity of the collection.

Capital Program

The ten-year capital program for BPL totals \$62 million. The majority of this funding will support capital improvements and reconstruction of the branch libraries.

FY 2010 Adopted Capital Commitment Plan

<i>Dollars in thousands</i>	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014-2019
Rehabilitation and Relocation	\$9,814	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Essential Reconstruction Of Facilities	31,957	4,735	500	6,819	4,619
Reconstruction Necessary To Maintenance	2,968	242	56	371	0
Support Services Improvements	29	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	\$44,498	\$4,977	\$556	\$7,190	\$4,619

Capital Highlights

- There is a total of \$18.1 million in the Capital Commitment Plan for renovations, improvements, and ADA compliance at the Central Library at Grand Army Plaza.
- There is a total of \$1.6 million in the Capital Commitment Plan for interior modifications and the expansion of the Sunset Park Branch Library.
- There are \$1.1 million in committed funds for the rehabilitation of the Ryder Branch Library.

Queens Borough Public Library

The Queens Borough Public Library consists of 63 branch libraries including the Langston Hughes Library and Cultural Center and a Central Library. Currently, the library system has over 800,000 people who carry a Queens Library card and nearly 50,000 people visit a branch library each day.

Key Public Services Areas

- QBPL provides quality services, resources, and lifelong learning opportunities through books and a variety of other formats to meet the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs and interests of its diverse and changing population.
- QBPL is a forum for all points of view and adheres to the principles of intellectual freedom.

Critical Objectives

- QBPL works to meet the needs of its diverse customer base is first and foremost.
- QBPL values the importance of providing rapid and comprehensive access to knowledge and information and strive to constantly improve the services we provide to our customers.
- QBPL is an active partner in the development and implementation of technology to ensure that access to knowledge and information will be equitably available to all.
- QBPL values the individuality and integrity of each customer and each employee.
- QBPL fosters an environment in which creativity, productivity and individual responsibility are encouraged, recognized and rewarded.

SOURCE: Queens Borough Public Library website

Queens Public Library Financial Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	2009 Actual	2010 Adopted	2010 Exec Plan	2011 Exec Plan	Difference 2010–2011*
TOTAL	\$86,940	\$87,156	\$83,456	\$66,566	(\$20,590)

*Difference refers to the variance between the Fiscal 2010 Adopted Budget and the Fiscal 2011 Executive Plan

The Fiscal 2011 Executive Plan

- **Budget Reductions.** The Fiscal 2011 Executive Plan has \$2.4 million in reductions in Fiscal 2011 and the outyears to the system. This is an addition to the \$6 million reduction proposed in the Fiscal 2011 Preliminary Plan. Furthermore, the plan does not include the \$11 million restored in the Fiscal 2010 Fiscal Adopted Budget, which would create a \$19 million subsidy deficit for the Queens Borough Public Library system. Receive
- **Impact on Headcount.** The overall funding reduction would result in a loss of 482 positions with 412 positions eliminated through layoffs.

- **Impact on Service.** There would be closures of 14 branches with 34 branches open two to three days a week, 12 branches would be open five days a week, one branch open six days a week, and the Central Library open seven days a week. The system would increase its reduction on spending for its book, materials/equipment, and program budget.

Capital Program for QBPL

The ten-year capital program for QBPL totals \$111 million. The majority of this funding will support new construction and capital improvements and reconstruction of the branch libraries.

FY 2010 Adopted Capital Commitment Plan

<i>Dollars in thousands</i>	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014-2019
Replacement Branches	\$50,545	\$2,000	\$0	\$7,297	\$43
Essential Reconstruction Of Facilities	4,175	0	583	1,022	3,048
Reconstruction Necessary To Maintenance	15,085	2051	0	5,120	1,679
Support Services Improvements	516	0	0	0	516
TOTAL	\$86,996	\$4,051	\$583	\$14,914	\$4,770

Capital Highlights

- There are \$16.8 million in committed funds for the new construction of the Children's Library Discovery Center at the Central Library in the Capital Commitment Plan.
- There are \$24.2 million in committed funds for the system-wide implementation of Self-Check Units in the Capital Commitment Plan.
- There are \$26.5 million in committed funds for a new replacement facility for the Elmhurst Community Library in the Capital Commitment Plan.

Appendix A: Budget Actions Since Fiscal Year 2010 Adoption

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	FY 2010			FY 2011		
	City	Non-City	Total	City	Non-City	Total
NYPL Research	\$28,101	\$0	\$28,101	\$21,145	\$0	\$21,145
NYPL	118,489	0	118,489	102,451	0	102,451
BPL	88,957	0	88,957	76,935	0	76,935
QBPL	87,156	0	87,156	75,065	0	75,065
Agency Budget as of June 2009 Plan	\$322,703	\$0	\$322,703	\$275,596	\$0	\$275,596
Program to Eliminate the Gap (PEGs)						
NYPL Research	(\$1,124)	\$0	(\$1,124)	(\$2,390)	\$0	(\$2,390)
NYPL	(4,743)	0	(4,743)	(11,587)	0	(\$11,587)
BPL	(3,561)	0	(3,561)	(8,702)	0	(\$8,702)
QBPL	(3,489)	0	(3,489)	(8,489)	0	(\$8,489)
Total, PEGs	(\$12,917)	\$0	(\$12,917)	(\$31,168)	\$0	(\$31,168)
Other Adjustments						
NYPL (CEO Funding)	\$15	\$0	\$15	\$265	\$0	\$265
BPL (CEO Funding)	15	0	15	265	0	265
QBPL (CEO Funding)	15	0	15	265	0	265
NYRL-Heat, Light, Power Adjmt	(242)	0	(242)	19	0	19
NYRL-Health Increment	195	0	195	195	0	195
NYPL-Heat, Light, Power Adjmt	(565)	0	(565)	44	0	44
NYPL-Health Increment	1,308	0	1,308	1,308	0	1,308
BPL-Heat, Light, Power Adjmt	(590)	0	(590)	(461)	0	(461)
BPL-Health Increment	689	0	689	689	0	689
QBPL-Heat, Light, Power Adjmt	(699)	0	(699)	(748)	0	(748)
QBPL-Health Increment	473	0	473	473	0	473
Total, Other Adjustments	\$614	\$0	\$614	\$2,314	\$0	\$2,314
NYPL Research	\$26,930	\$0	\$26,930	\$18,969	\$0	\$18,969
NYPL	114,504	0	114,504	92,481	0	92,481
BPL	85,510	0	85,510	68,726	0	68,726
QBPL	83,456	0	83,456	66,566	0	66,566
Agency Budget as of Fiscal 2011 Executive Plan	\$310,400	\$0	\$310,400	\$246,742	\$0	\$246,742