



Denver Public Library
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Denver Public Library Will Not Close Branches in 2012 Public Hearing to Discuss 2012 Budget Set for September 20

Denver, CO -- September 13, 2011 – Mayor Michael Hancock announced today that the Denver Public Library will not close any branches, or further reduce service hours in 2012. Mayor Hancock made this statement as part of his budget recommendation for the City, including a proposed \$32,104,500 budget for the Library. The initial \$2.5 million budget reduction target for the Library was partially offset by \$1 million in temporary position vacancy savings. The 2012 budget also includes a service expansion for the new Better Denver Bond-funded branch in Stapleton due to open in mid-2012.

Budget details will be available on the Library's website by end of day, Friday, September 16.

"We are thrilled that we don't have to close any branches or further cut back our service hours in 2012, however we will be operating below the minimum service standards set by the Library Commission, says City Librarian Shirley Amore. "There is still a dire need to find a long-term sustainable funding solution to stabilize our budget and provide the best-possible service to the community."

The Budget proposed by Mayor Hancock would provide funding to maintain 2011 service levels: 18 of the 23 branches will be open four days (32 hours) a week; four branches will be open six days (48 hours) a week, and one branch will be open four days a week and a half day on Sunday (36 hours). The Central Library will be open 52 hours a week, with weekend hours from 1- 5 p.m. In addition, the Budget funds the new branch in Stapleton at a service level of 32 hours.

The minimum service standards set by the Library Commission call for branches to be open at least 40 hours per week, and Central open at least 56 hours per week. The Commission also articulated the minimum materials and technology budgets, and staffing needed to adequately support the Library service level that the Denver community deserves. More details about service standards can be found in the Library Commission White Paper, posted online: <http://www.denverlibrary.org/budget>.

Discussions regarding long-term funding and potential ballot initiatives for the DPL will resume after the City's Structural Financial Taskforce presents their recommendations this fall. The Library looks forward to working in partnership with the City Administration and Denver residents to find a sustainable funding solution for the City's beloved libraries.

Public Hearing

The Denver Public Library Commission will hold a Public Hearing to discuss the 2012 Library budget on Tuesday, September 20.

"The purpose of this meeting is to gather feedback from the public," says Library Commission President, Kevin O'Connor. "It is important for us to hear what Denver residents have to say, and answer any questions they may have about the Library's budget."

What: Public Hearing about Denver Public Library 2012 Budget

When: Tuesday, September 20, 2011, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Where: Denver Central Library, 10 W. 14th Avenue Parkway, Denver; Level 7 Training Room

No RSVP is required. Anyone who cannot attend the meeting can send feedback to:

librarycommission@denverlibrary.org

The Commission will take formal action on the budget at its regular meeting on Wednesday, September 21 at 8:30 am at the Central Library.

About the Denver Public Library

The Denver Public Library is a vital community resource—free and open to all. With 24 locations, the Library connects Denver residents to information, ideas and experiences that enrich their lives and strengthens our community. The Library plays an important role in advancing reading and literacy from birth through adulthood and is a key link in developing a knowledgeable, productive workforce and fostering economic development.

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