



CITY OF SANTA MONICA

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA OF THE SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING VIA
TELECONFERENCE PURSUANT TO
EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20 ISSUED BY,
GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

MEETING BEGINS AT 4:00PM

Meeting can be viewed at: <https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/xzhzazrb> AND
DIAL-IN NUMBER: 1 (415) 466-7000 (US) PIN: 7281656 # (Chrome Browser
Recommended)

LIVE STREAM <https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/xzhzazrb> AND DIAL-IN
NUMBER: 1 (415) 466-7000 (US) PIN: 7281656 #

TO PROVIDE REMOTE PUBLIC COMMENT: <https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/xzhzazrb> AND DIAL-IN NUMBER: 1 (415) 466-7000 (US) PIN: 7281656 # (This is a special Library Board meeting. Public comment is restricted to only items listed on the agenda.)

To reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the Santa Monica Public Library Board and City Staff will participate via teleconference.

Participants may join the teleconference via methods listed above.

Those wishing to give public comment must submit their comments via email to priscilla.bouvet@smgov.net or join the meeting as listed above. Please note the agenda item number in your comments.

Call to Order Roll Call

(This is a special Library Board meeting. Public comment is restricted to only items listed on the agenda.)

(Please note that Agenda Items may be reordered during the meeting at the discretion of the body.)

1. **Special Agenda Item:**
 - A. Swearing in and oath of office of Library Boardmember Lucien Plauzoles

2. **New Business:**

- A. Discussion and request for information from Interim City Manager Lane Dilg identifying how budget reductions through the City's Restructuring Plan as a result of the COVID-19 Health Emergency were determined – *How were the budget cuts determined in relation to other departments?*
- B. Discussion and request for support from Interim City Manager Lane Dilg for a Library Restoration Plan re-envisioning a 21st Century Library
- C. Discussion and request for support from Interim City Manager Lane Dilg for an advanced and progressive funded process that will provide the Library with additional resources over the next two years to address youth services

3. **Adjournment**

August 20, 2020

Santa Monica
Public Library
Board

Acting City Manager Lane Dilg
City Hall
1685 Main Street, RM 209
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Dear Acting City Manager Dilg:

Lucien Plauzoles
Chair

Although we recognize the difficulty of the fiscal situation of the City, the Santa Monica Public Library Board is writing to express our deep concern and sorrow at the significant cuts to the Santa Monica Public Library budget. This is our first opportunity to voice our concerns officially as we were only recently authorized to meet as a body. We could not address the City Council in our official capacity during the critical budget hearings in May and June 2020.

Arlene Hopkins
Vice Chair

The budget targets set for the Santa Monica Public Library are deep and almost irreparable. The first cut of \$1.5 million reduced all as needed staff eliminating the most vulnerable staff, the Library Pages. The Pages represent many employees of color and perform the critical library services of circulation, shelving, pulling holds, and customer service. The second reduction, of close to \$4.0 million resulted in an elimination of 42% of the Library's entire budget. This is a loss in 52% of the staff and a reduction of 31% of the materials budget. This reduction has created a huge drain in terms of subject matter expertise, especially in the areas of youth services. The inequitable outcome has been devastating. Many bilingual and librarians of color have lost their positions due to the outdated personnel policies and practices in the City Charter.

Marcia Ferreira

John Hart

Michael Klein

The loss to the Library as a department is wholly a disservice to the Santa Monica residents. The cuts will result in diminished services just when our residents need their Library the most. The programs that fostered lifelong learning, literacy, and self-directed learning will be reduced by 75% or more. The 31% cut to the materials budget and 51% cut to the print materials budget creates an inequity in Library service. The Library will no longer be able to purchase enough materials to serve the community in an equitable manner. The focus on youth and older adults will be diminished. As a City we have made the terrible decision to reduce the Library's budget when the educational need for youth and families is at its greatest, when the economic future of many of our residents is challenged, and when our senior population is at its most vulnerable.

More importantly, due to the loss of staffing and budget reductions the Library was forced to make critical decisions to reorganize. When fully operational, Library

hours will be reduced by 64% from 259 to 93 hours weekly and services will be delivered from three locations instead of our five facilities.

The Santa Monica Library Board would like to meet with you to discuss the following:

- How were the budget cuts determined, especially in relation to other departments?
- Your support for a budget restoration plan and timeline for a re-envisioned 21st Century Library with full-service capabilities
- Support for an advanced, progressively funded process that provides additional resources over the next two years to address youth services

Sincerely,

Lucien Plauzoles
Chair, Santa Monica Public Library Board

cc: Patty Wong, Director, Santa Monica Public Library
Mayor Kevin McKeown and Santa Monica City Council

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR THAT PROMOTE CIVILITY AT ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS:

- Treat everyone courteously;
- Listen to others respectfully;
- Exercise self-control;
- Give open-minded consideration to all viewpoints;
- Focus on the issues and avoid personalizing debate;
- Embrace respectful disagreement and dissent as democratic rights, inherent components of an inclusive public process, and tools for forging sound decisions

This agenda is available in alternate format upon request. The Santa Monica Public Library is wheelchair accessible. If you require any special disability related accommodations (i.e. sign language interpreting, access to an amplified sound system, etc.), please contact the Administration Office, Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica (310) 458-8606 at least 7 days prior to the scheduled meeting.

Any person wishing to speak to the Library Board may do so under "Public Input," or to address an agenda item by first presenting their name, address and/or affiliation with an organization if any. All remarks shall be addressed to the Library Board as a body, and not to any one member thereof. All persons shall be given three minutes to make a presentation.

This agenda is subject to change up to 72 hours prior to a regular meeting and 24 hours prior to a special. Please check the agenda for prior to the meeting for changes.

Administration Office, Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica, CA
smpl.org (310) 458-8606