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**THE COUNCIL  
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Dear Neighbor,

Spring is the season of new growth and we are pleased to update you on the Jefferson Market Library's planned renovations. We would also like to thank the neighborhood's extended Jefferson Market Library family for your continued interest in and patience with this project.

As you may know, the New York Public Library (NYPL) began requesting funds for interior renovations at the Jefferson Market Library in 1994. Over the years, as consecutive Councilmembers for the neighborhood, we secured a total of \$2.1 million for this purpose.

As plans for the interior were proceeding, however, the library's façade began to rapidly deteriorate; community concern prompted us to investigate whether the previously earmarked funds for interior renovations could be transferred for use on façade rehabilitation. We found that we can transfer the funds, although some money has already been invested in the preliminary design for the interior work. We will be able to use these designs later when the exterior modifications have been completed and we are ready to refocus on the interior needs.

We felt the decision of how to use taxpayer dollars allocated to Jefferson Market Library—whether to modernize the interior or preserve the exterior—should be a decision the community participates in. So on January 12<sup>th</sup> we reached out to the community in a letter seeking feedback on renovation priorities. The response we got was overwhelmingly in favor of renovating the exterior of this beautiful building, and there was also a strong concern for increasing its accessibility for people with disabilities. Accordingly, we have coordinated with the NYPL to reallocate the initial funding toward investigating the condition of the façade, planning the façade rehabilitation and restoration, and designing for increased accessibility and better ADA compliance.

The NYPL is now pursuing a report that will assess the current state of the façade and ultimately inform the work of the designers and contractors. The Department of Design and Construction (DDC) and the NYPL are currently negotiating with an architectural firm and, when finished, will then request the proposal be certified by the City. When the plans are certified, they will be registered with the New York City Comptroller's office. After this process, which may take up to several months, the architect will develop a report that will identify the project's scope and give a cost estimate of the cost of the façade work.



Once we have a comprehensive and detailed understanding of what renovations must be made both on the façade and to increase accessibility for disabled people, the next stage is to develop a specific design. This process will involve a two month schematic design, which will include a review and approval by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. Then, the schematic concepts will be finalized during a 2-3 month design development phase, where this design will be completed with consideration to the realities of technical ability and limitations. Finally, the last and longest phase of the design process will be undertaken, the development of construction documents, which are what contractors review before bidding on the renovation project.

The entirety of the design stage, which is anticipated to take a total of 15 months, will ensure that all details and intricacies of this special project are thoroughly examined, anticipated and addressed. As required for all City funded projects, there must be a competitive bidding process, at the end of which the City will award the contract to the lowest bidder. This will take 6-7 months. Finally, by the summer of 2008, we anticipate the actual construction work will begin.

We understand—and absolutely sympathize with—the community's concern to see faster progress. However, the steps outlined above are required by government to ensure that our tax payer dollars are not spent without careful analysis and safeguards. We will continue to work closely with the NYPL and will keep the community updated and informed as the Jefferson Library renovation and restoration moves forward. Along with the NYPL, our offices will work hard to expedite the process and move the project forward to completion.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our offices. Lee Grodin in Speaker Quinn's office, at (212) 564.7757 x105, is specifically charged with coordinating communication with the community on this project.

Thank you for your dedication to and organizing efforts on this important project. By continuing to work together we shall surely improve accessibility to the library so that all Villagers can enjoy Jefferson Market Library's services. At the same time we will help restore our prized Greenwich Village Landmark.

Sincerely,



Christine C. Quinn  
New York City Council Speaker



Thomas K. Duane  
State Senator

cc: Susan Kent  
Director and Chief Executive of the NYPL Branch Libraries