

# A G E N D A

## BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

**\*\*\* SPECIAL MEETING\*\*\***

**JUNE 16, 2010**

**CENTRAL LIBRARY  
BOARD ROOM, 4th FLOOR  
630 W. 5TH STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90071**

**11:05 A.M.  
(OR AS SOON THEREAFTER)**

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1. ROLL CALL

2. CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A BALLOT MEASURE  
TO BE PLACED IN THE GENERAL ELECTION FOR AN  
ANNUAL CITYWIDE LIBRARY PARCEL TAX TO FUND  
LIBRARY SERVICES

(EXHIBIT "A")

3. ADJOURNMENT

### FINALIZATION OF BOARD ACTIONS - CHARTER SECTION 245

In accordance with Charter Section 245, actions of the Board of Library Commissioners shall become final at the expiration of the next five (5) meeting days of the City Council during which the Council has convened in regular session.

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As a covered entity under Title II of the American with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities.

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POSTED – June 15, 2010

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:** Library Commission Office (213) 228-7530

LIBRARY DEPARTMENT

BOARD REPORT

June 16, 2010

TO: Board of Library Commissioners  
FROM: Martín Gómez, City Librarian   
SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF A BALLOT MEASURE FOR A CITYWIDE PARCEL TAX TO FUND LIBRARY SERVICES

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT The Board of Library Commissioners adopt the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners approve the placement of a ballot measure on the November 2, 2010 State General Election for an annual Citywide Library Parcel Tax for a defined period of time to expand Library hours of operation; expand collections, and strengthen library capacity to serve children, students and families; and to reduce its dependency on the City's General Fund; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners instruct staff to transmit this request to the Mayor and City Council for consideration and approval.

**FINDINGS**

1. Currently, City Charter Section 531 provides that a sum be appropriated annually for the financial support of the Library Department in an amount not less than 7 cents on each 100 dollars of assessed value of all real and personal property within the City as assessed for City taxes. Seven cents is equal to .0175 percent of market value.
2. The Charter-required appropriation from the General Fund has proven to be insufficient to maintain or increase current service levels to meet the demand at all branches and Central Library. The Library Department's Budget for FY 2010-11 includes funding of \$22 million to reimburse the General Fund for utilities and employees benefits. In addition, the budget reduces the position count by 328 full-time equivalent positions to 828 positions (a 28% reduction).
3. The City Administrative Officer is projecting that the City's deficit could reach \$318.5 million in FY 2011-12. A deficit of this size will likely result in further cuts in Library service.

4. California state law allows voters to approve a special parcel tax on property, the proceeds of which would be placed in a trust fund, to be used exclusively for a designated purpose.
5. During May 2010, the firm of FM3 conducted a poll of likely voters in the 2010 November State General Election to determine voter support for a library parcel tax. The poll revealed that 68% of likely voters will or probably will vote yes on the measure.
6. A two-thirds majority vote (66 2/3%) of the electorate is required in order for the special parcel tax to pass.
7. The Library recommends placing a ballot measure on the November 2, 2010 State General Election to allow City property owners to vote on a parcel tax in order to maintain and restore Library services and to reduce its dependency on the City's General Fund.
8. *The tax on each parcel of real property shall be approximately \$3.25 per month (\$39 annual), which would result in additional revenue of approximately \$30 million per year. Subject to City Council approval, the tax would be adjusted annually by no more than the Consumer Price Index; and include a "sunset clause" that would require voter approval in order to be reviewed after a defined time period; and include citizen's advisory oversight board to ensure public accountability.*
9. The purpose of this special tax is to generate funds specifically earmarked for use by the Los Angeles Public Library to provide six-day service, reading incentive programs, after school homework centers, new books and other library materials. A Special Tax Fund would need to be created for the purpose of depositing the funds received. These funds would not be subject to reversion to the Reserve Fund and all interest earnings generated by funds on deposit in the special fund shall remain in the special fund. Any unencumbered monies may be used in a succeeding fiscal year.
10. The following entities would be exempt from paying the tax: federal government, state government, any state agency, or any local government agency. The tax would also not be levied against any parcel of property owned or used by an organization designated as a 501(c), (501(d), or 401(a) of Title 26 of the United States Code.
11. If approved, the County of Los Angeles would collect payments through an annual assessment on all property tax bills. The tax would be due in two equal installments and would be included in the property tax bills due November 1 and February 1 in each fiscal year.

12. Local cities such as Pasadena, Monrovia, South Pasadena and San Francisco have successfully passed library parcel taxes in the last few years. The following library parcel tax ballot measures were approved on June 8, 2010:

Marin County Free Library	\$49/year	74% Approval
North County (Santa Clara) Libraries	\$76/year	76.5% Approval
San Anselmo Library	\$49/year	74.4% Approval
San Rafael Library	\$49/year	69% Approval

Prepared by: Kyle Millager, Business Manager

Reviewed by: Kris Morita, Assistant General Manager