



March 30, 2010

An Open Letter to Our Community

The Regional Asset District (RAD) has released the Special Audit of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh performed by Parente Beard.

The report validates that Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh took a reasonable approach to identifying possible solutions to our funding crisis last year. It confirms that the Library made reasonable assumptions in forecasting long-term funding projections given the information we knew at the time, and that Library expenses are reasonable. It also acknowledges the hard work that the Library has done to reduce expenses over the years.

While the auditor's actual projected deficit differs from the Library's projections, the audit does confirm that our libraries are facing a very real funding challenge -- for both operating and capital dollars. It is clear that we must move forward quickly to find long-term dedicated funding to sustain our Library system.

The completion of this audit allows the Library and our community to take the next steps in doing so. Already this year, we have made great progress to lay the ground work. A Public-Private Task Force, led by former Board of Trustees chair and current Board member, the Honorable Frank Lucchino, is already in place to investigate future funding options. In addition we have taken preliminary steps toward a community engagement process to share information and seek input from our customers about how to sustain our library system.

Our goal is to secure ongoing, dedicated funding that will enable us to provide the optimal level of Library service for this community, now and well into the future. We must find a long-term funding solution, so that our region and our Library system do not need to face this crisis year after year.

The remaining months of the year are sure to be active, and I am confident they will be productive. We continue to rely on you, our community, to support the Library with your words, your actions and your donations. Please continue to visit our [Pittsburgh Protect Your Library Web pages](#) frequently. There you will find ongoing updates about our progress, and ways you can support the Library. Today, we have posted [a link to the RAD Special Audit](#).

Thank you for your ongoing support of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

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