

**PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA EMAIL FOR THE 07/09/20 SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING**

From: Yhael Trejo  
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 11:59 AM  
To: City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
Subject:

I personally think there should be a limit of people going inside the library and not just the library's but like amusement parks and malls and etc. just to avoid any cases especially since California is one of the states that has been known as one of the highest cases in the United States. But yes I do think that there should be a limit of people going inside the library's and amusement parks just to avoid any cases like I said. Also just to consider everyone safety and to avoid a lot of interaction with people. We want to keep our community safe as well as our country !! :)

**From:** cesar love  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 11:26 AM  
**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
**Subject:** Why Not Curbside Pickup?

Dear City Librarian

I rely on the library to check out books to read, much as I rely on retail stores for my food and other needed items. While most retail establishments are open to some degree, the library has remained closed.

Can we have curbside pickup for books as many food establishments do? It would work much like the closed stacks of some college libraries . It would also provide safety for library staff and patrons.

Thank you,

Cesar Love

Mission District

From: Joanna Riedl  
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 10:29 AM  
To: City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
Subject: Open the Libraries

Hi there - please open the libraries!

There is ways to mask/social distance and observe the health safety requirements while also making Literature resources available.

Thanks,

Joanna

**From:** glenn lbs  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 10:15 AM  
**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
**Subject:** Please open library

Library is so important for my mental health and work. Without the library I've had to use computer for info but looking at the screen for more then 30 minutes hurts my eyes and gives me headaches and migraines and still can't find the right info I need. Without access to the library there is alot of people suffering. We need all the branches of library back open please. Not to mention for the people that work at the library. I've spoken to acouple of the librarian and other workers at the library and they are all struggling. We are all struggling without it being open. Please help.

**From:** I. Girshman

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 7, 2020 9:13 AM

**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>

**Subject:** Please do your job and re-open the library for check-out of non electronic materials and return items

Hello Mr. Lambert:

San Franciscans have approved a dedicated fund for our library.

Many other libraries have re-opened for curbside services and acceptance of items patrons wish to return.

Yet San Francisco has not. Is it a financial problem that is preventing you from this kind of service?

I am not talking only about the Main; I am also inquiring about why branches are not able to offer this service as many other library systems in many other parts of the Bay Area and the USA are doing.

I am starting to think maybe the City's Head Librarian is unable to meet the challenge. If that is the case, you, Michael Lambert, need to OWN this problem and actually make an announcement in the media as to why SFPL is unable to re-open. If you feel you are in over your head, can I suggest that you resign and we, the People of the City of San Francisco, can find somebody competent enough to solve the problem.

Sincerely,

I. Girshman

Library user, not abuser.

PS) I am NOT interested in e-library or "virtual" library services, thank you.

**From:** kristen pantl  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 1:22 PM  
**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
**Subject:** Library offering curbside

Hello--I am writing because I understand that there is a meeting today with the Library Commission.

I am a very active library patron at the Mission Branch and I am strongly in favor of the library offering curbside pickup for requests. I think that if done thoughtfully, this is a safe compromise for patrons and staff that would allow us to pick up our requests and return materials.

I really don't understand the delay seeing that many other neighboring counties are already doing this. I work with kids during the summer (remotely right now) and getting books to them has been a real challenge.

To me, books are more essential than many of the other things that we are now free to buy (and I did have to buy some books).

I really miss the library! Please open!

Thank you, Kristen Pantl

From: Theresa Palella  
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 1:33 PM  
To: City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
Subject: Reopening library branches

I have been very disappointed in the libraries not opening yet. I understand the precautions taken for covid but I believe the libraries can open taking those necessary precautions. Many other places have opened like department stores. Libraries are an educational source and a place for lower income individuals to come for resources and books. Please do not take that away from us. They should be able to open following precautions especially if stores are.

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From: Theresa Palella  
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 1:34 PM  
To: City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
Subject: Reopening of libraries

I would like to write to you regarding my request to reopen the libraries. We need these to continue in our communities for many reasons.

**From:** Carolyn Prasad

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 1:43 PM

**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>

**Subject:** Open the Libraries

Hello,

Our neighborhood library is an essential and wonderful keystone in our community. Since my children were babies, the library has provided us music, activities, engagement, community, and of course books. My kids still ask to visit the library weekly.

Please consider a ticketed/timed entry system or app where families could sign-up. Many low-income families have the technology to sign-up and this vulnerable population is especially in need of library services.

Thank you for your time.

Carolyn Prasad

Registered Voter

**From:** Patricia Le

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 1:43 PM

**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>

**Subject:** Please consider reopening the library

Dear City Librarian Lambert,

The public library has been a consistent source of comfort, friendship and education for my daughter and I.

The closures of the public libraries city wide has been heartbreaking, which we understood due to safety.

With parts of the city slowly reopening, and with other cities offering curbside pickup, I ask that you please consider reopening the library, even if not at full capacity. LA and NY have rolled out curbside pick up. I also support a reservation system where patrons can reserve a 30 minute window to browse shelves while limiting how many people are allowed safely inside.

It is clear that covid has brought so many inequities to the surface, and for many, the library is an essential service. It is a safe space for children and families as well as a learning center when it is not possible to learn at home.

Please consider reopening the library.

Thank you for your time,

Patricia Le

From: Jen Navarro  
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 1:45 PM  
To: City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
Subject: Reopening Libraries

I am writing as San Francisco resident and SFPL patron. It is in my opinion that libraries should be deemed essential services. With children out of school indefinitely, it is imperative that their learning continues. Many children from underserved communities are suffering from the inequalities of the system at higher rates. They need the library as a safe space to learn.

Please urge the Mayor's office and Board of Supervisors to instate curbside pickup and the modified opening of some branches. New York and Los Angeles have done this, we can too.

Thank you for your time.  
Jenifer Navarro

**From:** Rozie Wong

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 1:45 PM

**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>

**Subject:** SF needs library services back throughout the City!

Hello,

Library services are essential services.

The inequalities for children in SF seem even greater now, many need the library as a safe space and to continue learning when it's difficult or inaccessible to do at home.

Curbside pick up would be very beneficial to children to remain stimulated throughout the summer and beyond.

Regards,

Ms Rozie Wong Gillies

From: Kathy Scheper  
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 1:58 PM  
To: City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
Subject: Library Closures

Hi,

I'm really frustrated and disappointed that you have decided to not open our libraries. In these difficult times, being able to go choose a great book to read is so "essential" to our well-being. There are so many people that are unemployed due to this virus right now, and I believe that the wonderful people who choose work in our libraries are indeed some of our most "essential" workers.

Please reconsider opening our libraries! 😞

**From:** Malliett, Michelle C.  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 2:19 PM  
**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
**Subject:** when will libraries reopen ?

hi, my name is michelle malliett and im an ost teacher for the sfusd.

when will libraries reopen.?

libraries are an essential service and an important part of a free society

thank you,

michelle

From: Lace Halton  
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 2:51 PM  
To: City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
Subject: Reopen

To whom it may concern,  
Please reopen the library. I run a childcare in the city and the library is so important to us!  
Lace  
NBK

From: Brian Chinn  
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 2:56 PM  
To: City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
Subject: Library opening

I've read the reopening plans and I think the curbside plan is a good and safe way to ease back into it.

Your workers will not be more exposed than restaurant and retail store workers doing curbside pickup. Quarantining the books for 72 hours is also very safe.

This will allow SF residents like me to checkout books and movies in a safe way.

Brian Chinn

**From:** Sarah Owens

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:03 PM

**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>

**Subject:** Protect our libraries

Hello,

I'm writing in support of maintaining current funding or even expanding funding of San Francisco Public Libraries. I am a frequent patron of the San Francisco Public Library and it would be a loss to our community for the library to have any funding removed or for its staff to be furloughed or laid off. Protect library staff and protect our libraries!

Best,

Sarah Owens

San Francisco resident + library fan!

From: Lenna Mogannam  
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:30 PM  
To: City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
Subject: Library Reopening - Comments for Commission Meeting

Hello,

My name is Lenna and I'm a mom and homemaker, and resident of San Francisco. My family members and I are regular patrons of the library both in person (before the pandemic), and now online. I'm writing in the hopes you'll consider some measures when making your plan to reopen the public library branches. You must ensure the safety of the library staff and patrons by providing proper PPE, access to fast, free and accurate Covid testing, and a work environment suitable for the social distancing protocol. There should also be a defined, fair process for deciding who is allowed to rerun to work. And finally, in this time of global pandemic, there should be no budget cuts or layoffs. Our librarians and library staff are so valuable to our children, community members and city; and as their employer you owe it to them to keep their jobs and their families safe.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Lenna Mogannam

**From:** Bianca Polovina

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:32 PM

**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>

**Subject:** Public Comment or July 9, 2020 Special Library Commission Meeting: Item 2

To the Library Commission:

I write to address the re-opening plan for San Francisco Public Library.

I am a 15-year resident of San Francisco, a City employee, and the spouse of a Library employee; I write to you as a San Franciscan shaped by all this context.

During this global health pandemic, I am permitted to telecommute while my spouse and her Library colleagues have been relegated to Disaster Service Work or draining their hard-earned leave balances. I urge the Commission to use its power in setting Library policy to ensure all Library employees can safely and equitably return to work. As a Commission, you have the opportunity to ensure true equity for the hard-working people who support the only government service consistently well-rated by the public. I urge you to take meaningful action and not squander the goodwill of the public or the patience and dedication of the employees who make the Library great.

Consider also the impacts of any budget or continued service cuts and layoffs, and promptly reject any proposed cuts and layoffs. Stand against the cruel racist tides of austerity measures and protect both the Library system and the security guards, delivery drivers, custodial staff, maintenance and facilities staff, pages, assistants, technical assistants, librarians, and all the other people on whose backs the Library is built.

Regards,

Bianca Polovina

**From:** Sean Hedgpeth

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:36 PM

**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>; Breed, Mayor London (MYR) <[mayorlondonbreed@sfgov.org](mailto:mayorlondonbreed@sfgov.org)>

**Subject:** SFPL and the SF City Budget

Dear SFPL,

I wanted to express my gratitude by sending this email of unwavering support for the SFPL and everything they do for our community. I have been using the library for years and I eagerly await its reopening. That is why we need to make the library a priority in the upcoming City budget negotiations, to retain staff and vital services in San Francisco.

Our libraries provide education, a creative outlet, as well as providing direct services to needy San Franciscans as essential workers. Due to COVID related revenue impacts, I would suggest reorganizing priorities away from funding yet another budget increase for SFPD to fund our libraries.

Warm regards,

Sean Hedgpeth

**From:** Melissa Fonseca

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:38 PM

**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>

**Subject:** Save the library

I am writing to express my deepest support of the SFPL. Growing up the public library was a lifeline for me and I attribute access to its amazing resources to my career and academic success. To this day I use its services to enhance my knowledge and skill set. I ask that you protect the library from cuts and layoffs so that the community, especially marginalized and less financially secure members, may continue to have access to resources needed to broaden our minds and our hearts.

With Gratitude,

Melissa Fonseca

**From:** valerie reichert

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:39 PM

**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>

**Subject:** Advocating for SFPL and it's Contribution to the Health of our Neighborhoods

Dear City Librarian,

In advance of tomorrow's commission meeting, I'd like to voice my support for the vital and necessary entity that SFPL occupies in our communities. We miss our local branch (Bernal) greatly for it's wonderful resources, programming and the staff which have given such generous service to our community. This past Sunday, the NYTimes had an interview with Lonnie G. Bunch III, Secretary of the Smithsonian (the head of dozens of museums and libraries). Within this interview is a sentence that I am enclosing (see below) substituting the word "museum" with the word "library." This sentence encapsulates why we need our libraries now more than ever.

I believe very strongly that ~~museums~~ libraries have a social justice role to play, that ~~museums~~ libraries have an opportunity to not become community centers, but to be at the center of their community, to help the community grapple with the challenges they face, to use history, to use science, to use education, to give the public tools to grapple with this. — Lonnie G. Bunch III

Thank you and all of SFPL staff for grappling with these monumentally difficult times. It would give so many of us relief if SFPL can manage to reinstate some normalcy by offering curb service and drop-off.

With Kind Regards,

Valerie Reichert

*From The New York Times:*

Smithsonian's Leader Says 'Museums Have a Social Justice Role to Play'

Lonnie Bunch, who oversees a host of museums and libraries, says the role of cultural institutions is to make people "feel comfortable with nuance and complexity."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/02/business/smithsonian-lonnie-bunch-corner-office.html?smid=em-share>

**From:** jenn brown  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:41 PM  
**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
**Subject:** Please reopen the branch libraries

Hello, I hope this email finds you well!

I am writing to request for our SF branch libraries to reopen. By reopening I believe it will benefit the emotional health of the community from the patrons to the employees. Everyone has been patiently waiting for months and I believe it's time and possible to open safely for the city.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Brown

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"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened" -dr. seuss

**From:** Jackie Chu  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:43 PM  
**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
**Subject:** Library Closures

Dear Librarians & Libraries,

We miss you! We miss visiting the library and borrowing so many good books. We wish you could re-open in a safe way. Perhaps with curbside pickups or reserving times for families to browse (like a store). The library is an essential place for us and our community- we miss you!

Jackie Chu

From: jalal mogannam  
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:57 PM  
To: City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>; City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
Subject: Library reopening

To the Library Commission:

I write to address the re-opening plan for San Francisco Public Library.

I am a born and raised 60 year resident of San Francisco, a tax payer and a parent of Library employee also born raised in San Francisco and the product of the public school system. I write to you as a concerned San Franciscan and parent.

During this global health pandemic, my daughter and her Library colleagues have been relegated to Disaster Service Work or draining their hard-earned leave balances. I urge the Commission to use its power in setting Library policy to ensure all Library employees can safely and equitably return to work. As a Commission, you have the opportunity to ensure true equity for the hard-working people who support the only government service consistently well-rated by the public. I urge you to take meaningful action and not squander the goodwill of the public or the patience and dedication of the employees who make the Library great.

Consider also the impacts of any budget or continued service cuts and layoffs, and promptly reject any proposed cuts and layoffs. Stand against the cruel racist tides of austerity measures and protect both the Library system and the security guards, delivery drivers, custodial staff, maintenance and facilities staff, pages, assistants, technical assistants, librarians, and all the other people on whose backs the Library is built.

Sincerely,  
Jalal Mogannam

**From:** Patrick Lee  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:59 PM  
**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
**Subject:** Support for SFPL

Hello,

Before shelter-in-place shut down the libraries, we regularly attended the children's storytime held at Deaf Services Center at the Main Library. When my wife and I discovered that SFPL had resources to help with my child's development and found a community of other families facing similar challenges, this took a considerable burden off our shoulders. Our daughter is 3 now and asks on a daily basis when we can go back to the library. She loves reading and I believe a huge part of that was due to our visits to the Deaf Services Center. As a regular contributor to the Friends of the SFPL and parent to children with special needs, I ask that you protect the library from cuts and layoffs so that our family as well as other families facing tough times can continue accessing much valued resources.

Thank you.

Patrick

**From:** jenny johnston  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 4:10 PM  
**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
**Subject:** curbside pickup/dropoff

Hello! Just wanted to write a quick note of support for SFPL in advance of your library commission meeting. SFPL's Bernal branch is a second home for us, and an integral part of our family life. We would love to see curbside pickup/dropoff activated sometime soon, if at all possible. And also just to let you know that we are 100 percent in support of bringing some sort of library experience back to our community safely.

Thank you!

Jenny Johnston

Bernal Heights

From: Anne Gajardo  
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 4:12 PM  
To: City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
Subject: Save the library

To whom this may concern,

I love the library and you want us to be protected from cuts and layoffs!

Reading is so important and the Library is vital in keeping up literacy.

Thank you,

Anne G.

**From:** Wesley Haack  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 4:16 PM  
**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
**Subject:** Citizen Concerns

Hello,

I am a Bay Area resident and I love the libraries here! Even more than the physical buildings and books, even more than the services they offer, I love the librarians! They are all so clearly dedicated to serving their community in a positive and respectful way. Because of this, I am concerned about their safety during reopening as COVID19 rages on.

So as a resident, I request that the Commission NOT CUT any library staff or salaries. These dedicated individuals have committed so much to their jobs. It is our duty to honor that commitment and protect them during challenging times. That means not taking away those jobs and salaries. I understand that money may be tight, but that is all the more reason to defund the police! Perhaps the commission can advocate that as a way to receive more funding.

I also request that the Commission postpone reopening library buildings until the pandemic is on the decline. Specifically, without a way to enforce mask wearing (which library staff cannot be expected to do in addition to their usual duties), it will not be safe to reopen libraries until Gov. Newsom removes the masks-in-public requirement. This assumes that this decision will be based on epidemiological data that will reflect the pandemic's decline. However, if not, another metric for safety must be used.

In the meantime, increasing support for telecommuting and remote support is a powerful way to continue to support the community.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment.

Sincerely,

Wesley Haack

From: Sophia Schrank  
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 4:21 PM  
To: City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
Subject: Thank you!

>> In advance of tomorrow's commission meeting, I'd like to voice my support for the vital and necessary entity that SFPL occupies in our communities. We miss our local branch (Bernal) greatly for it's wonderful resources, programming and the staff which have given such generous service to our community. This past Sunday, the NYTimes had an interview with Lonnie G. Bunch III, Secretary of the Smithsonian (the head of dozens of museums and libraries). Within this interview is a sentence that I am enclosing (see below) substituting the word "museum" with the word "library." This sentence encapsulates why we need our libraries now more than ever.

Sophia

**From:** Hilary Reichert  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 4:27 PM  
**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
**Subject:** Advocating for SFPL

Dear City Librarian,

In advance of tomorrow's commission meeting, I'd like to voice my support for the vital and necessary entity that SFPL occupies in our communities. I miss my local Glen Park branch greatly for its wonderful resources, programming and the staff which have given such generous service to our community.

Thank you and all of SFPL staff for grappling with these monumentally difficult times. It would give so many of us relief if SFPL can manage to reinstate some normalcy by offering curbside service and drop-off.

With Kind Regards,

Hilary Reichert

From: ann lockett  
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 4:33 PM  
To: City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
Subject: Reopen branches for curbside pickup and drop off

Dear City Librarian,  
I hope you will ask the Library Commission tomorrow to let us have actual books in our hands once more. The ebooks are some help, but very hard on the eyes of older folk like me. And so many books are not available virtually.  
I treasure the library!  
Thanks for your attention,  
Ann Lockett

**From:** Joanne Yen

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 4:37 PM

**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>

**Subject:** Opening Libraries in the Future

Hi,

I wanted to address opening libraries in the future despite this current situation we are in right now. I wanted to say that it would be nice to consider opening up the library because it would be another quiet place for someone to study, read, or just get away from the house. It would also help with people who love reading like me because even if I have ebooks and my laptop, it is hard for me to concentrate since I get easily distracted. I know it is not easy to open up and regulate normally but these are just my thoughts. Thank you!

Joanne Yen

From: Ayaan Gates-Williams  
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 4:46 PM  
To: City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
Subject: Public comment for library commission meeting 7/9/2020

Comment on Agenda Item #2 SFPL Reopening Plan Discussion

Please read in the event that the presentation documents shared on the library commission website have not been updated between 7/6/2020 and 7/9/2020

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Good Afternoon,

I have a statement to share on behalf of the labor team re-entry workgroup of the San Francisco Public Library

On Monday 7/6/2020, City Librarian Michael Lambert made public a document with our names attached to it that we did not review. The document, intended for presentation at the library commission meeting this week, describes what may be the best intentions of SFPL To Go. However, we cannot in good conscience vouch for their implementation or even say that we see a path forward to achieve them at this point. In fact, the presentation epitomizes how this entire venture was a *fait accompli* before we were invited to participate.

For this reason, the members of our workgroup including Ayaan Gates-Williams, Bix Warden, Doriene Kilzer-Hill, Nadia Volny, Nzugu Kitenge, Ofelia Moran, and Ruben Juarez do not consent to the use of our names in management's presentation. We ask that you remove our names from any documents submitted to the Library Commission and/or shared with library staff and the public in regard to SFPL To Go.

We initially formed this workgroup to represent the voices of hundreds of our colleagues who have not had an avenue to express their concerns or make recommendations for keeping our workplace safe as we reopen during a pandemic. The most important issues for our colleagues are staffing and health and safety. We hoped to work collaboratively toward consensus with library management, but we have not yet had a chance to make those voices heard.

The Labor Team's Re-entry Workgroup is ready and eager to resume work with the management team once our requests are met to address the change in working conditions brought on by the pandemic. Our members are relying on us to bring them back to work safely and the workgroup has much to offer with respect to the actual work that will be performed at each location.

Thank you,

Ayaan Gates-Williams

**From:** Bix Warden  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 4:48 PM  
**To:** Ayaan Gates-Williams  
**Cc:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Public comment for library commission meeting 7/9/2020

Fantastic. Very well written.

On Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 4:45 PM Ayaan Gates-Williams wrote:

Comment on Agenda Item #2 SFPL Reopening Plan Discussion

Please read in the event that the presentation documents shared on the library commission website have not been updated between 7/6/2020 and 7/9/2020

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Good Afternoon,

I have a statement to share on behalf of the labor team re-entry workgroup of the San Francisco Public Library

On Monday 7/6/2020, City Librarian Michael Lambert made public a document with our names attached to it that we did not review. The document, intended for presentation at the library commission meeting this week, describes what may be the best intentions of SFPL To Go. However, we cannot in good conscience vouch for their implementation or even say that we see a path forward to achieve them at this point. In fact, the presentation epitomizes how this entire venture was a fait accompli before we were invited to participate.

For this reason, the members of our workgroup including Ayaan Gates-Williams, Bix Warden, Doriene Kilzer-Hill, Nadia Volny, Nzugu Kitenge, Ofelia Moran, and Ruben Juarez do not consent to the use of our names in management's presentation. We ask that you remove our names from any documents submitted to the Library Commission and/or shared with library staff and the public in regard to SFPL To Go.

We initially formed this workgroup to represent the voices of hundreds of our colleagues who have not had an avenue to express their concerns or make recommendations for keeping our workplace safe as we reopen during a pandemic. The most important issues for our colleagues are staffing and health and safety. We hoped to work collaboratively toward consensus with library management, but we have not yet had a chance to make those voices heard.

The Labor Team's Re-entry Workgroup is ready and eager to resume work with the management team once our requests are met to address the change in working conditions brought on by the pandemic. Our members are relying on us to bring them back to work safely and the workgroup has much to offer with respect to the actual work that will be performed at each location.

Thank you,

Ayaan Gates-Williams

**From:** Moli Steinert

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 4:50 PM

**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>

**Subject:** letter of support to open SFPL

Dear City Librarian,

In advance of tomorrow's commission meeting, I'd like to voice my support for the vital and necessary entity that SFPL occupies in our communities.

The Library is more than a place for books—it is vital community resource that brings people together.

Please bring back our libraries, open them up....slowly, but surely, starting with curbside service and drop off. We need our libraries to bring some level of normalcy back to our neighborhoods.

Already Oakland and Alameda are bringing their libraries back. Difficult as it may be, I'm sure your librarians can share/learn from other communities on how to safely do this.

Best regards,

Moli Steinert

**From:** Andrew Bishop  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 4:53 PM  
**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
**Subject:** Comment for Library Commission Meeting, July 9th

Thank you for introducing contact-free pick up! I'm looking forward to being able to get my library books again.

As a vulnerable person, I am very concerned about the proposed third phase of the library reopening plan.

Libraries are close-contact environments. The public should not be exposed to one another or to library staff until there is NO risk of COVID-19. Libraries will NOT be able to enforce public mask wearing or other preventative behaviors, which is a major health risk at this time. It would be extremely irresponsible and harmful to the community to reopen libraries until the risk of spread is zero.

San Francisco's library service is important for equity throughout the City! Put staff and public safety first. Please don't cut library staff or library staff salaries. Measures such as contact-free pick-up can provide basic services until it's safe.

Best,

Andrew Bishop

**From:** R. Robles  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 4:55 PM  
**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
**Subject:** Open of SF libraries

To Whom It May Concern,

I am requesting the San Francisco Libraries to re-open. I find it difficult to make copies and sometimes I don't have access to a computer. I miss my local Excelsior library and it's workers.

Please bring back the librarians back to work!

Thank You

R Robles

**From:** BRIAN ISOBE  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 4:55 PM  
**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
**Cc:** Valerie Reichert  
**Subject:** Support for the San Francisco Public Library Services

Dear Mr. Lambert

While I don't support the immediate reopening of the Library to the public, I do want express my support for the San Fransisco Public Library and express how important it is to **preserve** the current infrastructure. In fact, one could take advantage of the shut down to reflect on improvements that could be instituted given this opportunity to restart.

The Public Library is an indispensable component to society and every effort should be taken to keep the system intact.

Sincerely,

Brian Isobe and Marianne Sullivan

From: aya nakamura  
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 4:56 PM  
To: City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB) <[citylibrarian@sfpl.org](mailto:citylibrarian@sfpl.org)>  
Subject: Library services are essential!

To Whom it May Concern,

SF needs library services throughout the City! Library services are essential services. So many of us rely on the library as a tremendous resource. The inequalities seem even greater now-many need the library as a safe space and to continue learning when it's difficult or inaccessible to do at home.

Curbside pickup would be greatly appreciated and please do not close any of the libraries, we need them!!!

Thank you for listening,

Aya Nakamura

Resident of the Inner Richmond

**PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED VIA VOICEMAIL FOR THE 07/09/20 SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING**

7/8/20, 1:19 p.m.

From: Anonymous Caller

The caller said she's strongly in favor of the library starting curbside and it's very feasible and possible for people to request books. She didn't think it would be unsafe for patrons and library staff. She said she worked with children and they had no access to books in the summer. She said books were essential and she's hoping the library would offer curbside asap.