

A Resolution

Calling on the Kenney Administration to keep Philadelphia public libraries open.

WHEREAS, Public libraries are an important institution that should be present and accessible to every community. At the public library, the amount of money ones earns is of no consequence. Libraries offer free resources to everyone, regardless of socioeconomic status, and gives those from poorer backgrounds an opportunity to succeed; and

WHEREAS, In Philadelphia, the libraries have always been a place where children and families can gather to engage in their communities, become involved in a variety of educational programs, and seek knowledge from the many books their neighborhood libraries have to offer; and

WHEREAS, Many of the libraries in the Free Library of Philadelphia system used to be open six days a week, including Saturdays. Currently, in the Fall 2018, only 23 of the 54 public libraries are open on Saturdays, due to budget cuts. Recently, there have been talks that regional libraries will be closed on Mondays as well; and

WHEREAS, The Free Library of Philadelphia has faced substantial budget cuts from the city over the last ten years, and has been struggling to staff and keep libraries open; and

WHEREAS, The Free Library of Philadelphia offers many services and programs that are beneficial to the communities they serve such as: adult education classes, career and services workshops, computer classes, early and adult literacy classes, Read by Fourth and many more; and

WHEREAS, If Philadelphia public libraries are in need of additional funding, then the City of Philadelphia should find a way to provide them with what they need. We should not opt to close the doors of our libraries on additional days; and

Now therefore, be it resolved that the City Council of Philadelphia calls on the Kenney Administration to keep Philadelphia public libraries open.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Clerk is directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the Office of the Mayor of Philadelphia as evidence of the support of this legislative body.

Jannie L. Blackwell
Councilwoman 3rd District

October 11, 2018