

**From:** Mike Laquatra [mailto:mjllmf@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 9:22 PM  
**To:** CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>  
**Subject:** 2023 budget/library funding/8/24/2022 budget hearing

**-EXTERNAL-**

Mayor and Council members,

I am writing to encourage you to include a significant increase in annual funding for the Long Beach Public Library system in the 2023 budget. Public libraries serve patrons from all walks of life from elementary school children through seniors and are a vital resource for City residents from every demographic group. The current state of our City's public library system is a disgrace. Branches are only open for limited hours a few days a week with some locations currently open for pick-up only. At a time when the City sees fit to dedicate well in excess of a million dollars to upgrade a duck pond it seems only fair to restore and add to the funding that has been lost to the library system over the past several years. I hope that you will do the right thing and increase budgetary support for this vital city resource.

Thank you,

Mike Laquatra

Homeowner and 30 year resident of Long Beach