

July 21, 2016

215 Adams st. 10a  
Brooklyn NY11201

AN OPEN LETTER

Mayor Bill DeBlasio  
Comptroller Scott Stringer  
Public Advocate Leticia James  
Council President Melissa Viverito  
Borough President Eric Adams  
Chair Libraries Jimmy van Bramer  
Councilman Stephen Levin  
All members of the City Council  
Assemblywoman Joanne Simon  
State Senator Velmanette Montgomery  
State Senator Daniel Squadron  
Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez

Dear Elected Representatives :

Re: Censorship at the Brooklyn  
Heights interim library

As you know the Brooklyn Heights Library is scheduled to close in its present location and move to an interim location . The site is at Our Lady of Lebanon Church on Remsen st. This was approved as part of a ULURP process in an agreement between the City, Brooklyn Public Library and Hudson Companies is projected to be operational for a minimum of three years.

In the past the church has taken a strong position regarding books it considers of questionable moral value and even banned them. Love Brooklyn Libraries inc and members of our community wonder if this will happen at the interim Brooklyn Heights Library. Monsignor when questioned about whether censorship would be a problem with regard to some of the books the library would house was quite explicit.. These are Bishop own words as he told an interview with channel 12 news on July 2nd . "As long as they are not promoting anything outrageous we'll accommodate them"

The following question needs to be resolved: " Can a public library be subject to religious censorship. We believe this needs a hard look at all branches of city government. Councilman Levin, Libray Chair Van Bramer And Council President Melissa Mark Ververito are those we call on to lead this review. Perhaps council hearings are apporopriate Thank you for your very prompt attention of this matter. It cannot be put off or ignored as it is the interim library is set to open next week. Thank you.

Marsha Rimler  
Love Brooklyn libraries inc.