

October 27, 2009

Governor Paterson recently outlined a two-year, \$5 Billion Deficit Reduction Plan to address the State's current year budget gap and long-term structural deficit. Part of this plan includes a proposed 10% cut across the board in State spending for the current fiscal year, with the exception of a 4.5% cut in School Aid.

This Plan would cut Library Aid by \$3.3 Million in the current year. Library Aid has been cut three times in the last 18 months—and had gone from \$102 Million in 2007 to \$99 Million in 2008 to \$91 Million in 2009.

Governor Paterson plans to call back the Legislature for a Special Session, but exactly when is not yet known.

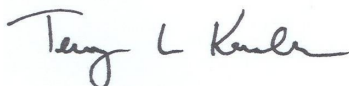
However, both the Assembly and the Senate are holding hearings on the proposed budget cuts. The Assembly has already met and the Senate will be holding three hearings next week: one in New York City, one in Long Island, and one in Westchester. The Westchester hearing will be held as follows:

Thursday, November 5, 2009
from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Greenburgh Public Library
300 Tarrytown Road, Elmsford, NY 10523

Michael Borges, Executive Director of New York Library Association (NYLA) will be testifying; and WLS has also offered to testify. We encourage all to attend.

If you cannot make it, contact your local representative and let them know that now is not the time to be cutting funding for services that people of all ages are relying on to improve their literacy and computer skills and to search for jobs and access public assistance through free internet service. For your legislator's contact information click on the link below:

http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/files/u5/advocates/ny_state_assembly_west_delegation.pdf



Terry L. Kirchner
Executive Director