

## Speech to the Troy City Council - April 19, 2010

The Friends of the Troy Public Library ask each of you do the following:

**The Friends of the Troy Public Library and its membership respectfully ask the City Council to reject any budget that calls for permanent closure of the Troy Public Library in the coming budget discussions. We ask that you seek out alternative solutions to this economic problem, before you take an irrevocable step toward closing our treasured city library.**

In the packet that you have been given, we have attached approximately 1,000 signatures of support gathered in just one weekend, from people who request that you stop at nothing to keep the library open. That was just one weekend. I would like to share some their comments.

- There was a resident you suffered a potentially fatal disease that caused her to have to learn to read again. She goes to the library every day and literally through tear filled eyes referred to the library as her lifeline these past few years.
- There is the recently displaced executive that was seeking a place to get resume assistance and a sense of community during this devastating personal loss.
- People ask if the library closes, what other libraries can they use? If Troy does not have a library to reciprocate with others, they will not be able to use libraries such as Birmingham, Bloomfield Township, Rochester, or Auburn Hills. In those that do accept non-residents they will be charged at least \$100 and fees for many services.
- The Troy School District has cut librarians and school media centers are running on reduced days and hours. Students are concerned about how they will have access to resources they need for their school work.

In almost every instance of communicating with people one on one, there is an overwhelming sense that this closure is unwarranted and that the City of Troy needs to do more to find alternative solutions. People stated that council must act boldly and now to secure the library's future.

It is possible for the city to weather this storm. Shared responsibility and a sense of community can achieve this. Bold leadership and out of the box thinking can achieve this. The Friends of the Troy Public Library ask you to join us in our 51 year mission and support us in rejecting closure and securing the future of the Troy Public Library.