

From: Julian O'Connor

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 9:21 AM

To: Budget Committee <BudgetCommittee@london.ca>; City of London, Mayor <mayor@london.ca>; Stevenson, Susan <sstevenson@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Important note from a three year old on the potential closure of local library

Hi mayor,

Please don't close my library. I would be very sad.

Love, Jonah

Good morning,

I am deeply saddened to become aware that the Carson library branch in Old East Village could close its doors to the public.

Our family visits this library one to two times a week and we so enjoy our walks and visits to the library. There is something so special about being able to walk one block to the local library.

Our kids have their own library cards and look forward to their weekly visits where they get to choose different books every week and fill their library bag. This is an opportunity for our young children to work on their literacy skills. We read our library books every night in our household. I also see our retired neighbours walking down the street weekly with books in their hands from the library.

I am a teacher who sees first hand the struggle that some students have when it comes to literacy skills. It is concerning to me to think that our own mayor who has children of his own is not putting our public library system as a priority when it comes to the city budget. Our children would literally be so sad if our local Carson library were to shut down. I can't even imagine other families who are less fortunate who would not have access to a library if Carson were to shut down.

Please reconsider and think about how important our public library system is keeping in mind all children. As I teacher I work on a daily basis to create an inclusive and fair classroom where all students have access to the resources they need in order to thrive. I am asking the same of our mayor and city councillors to continue to create inclusive and fair neighborhoods for all families to thrive including access to our local public library. Please show my three year old (and his baby sister) who wrote the note above that you listen and do care.

Thank you,

Jules O'Connor (Old East Village resident)