WE ARE HERE TODAY TO TELL THE PUBLIC --AND PUBLIC POLICY MAKERS --

-- THAT LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS ARE WORTH IT!
LIBRARIES CAN GET YOU THROUGH HARD TIMES WITH NO MONEY -- BETTER --

THAN MONEY WILL GET YOU THROUGH HARD TIMES --

-- WITH NO LIBRARIES.
LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS ARE NOT THE PROBLEM --

-- WE ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE SOLUTION
THE SOLUTION -- TO THE PROBLEMS OF POVERTY --

-- HOMELESSNESS-- ILLITERACY -- DRUGS -- UNEMPLOYMENT --
-- THE MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCES A LIBRARY HAS -- GO HOME EVERY NIGHT --
LIBRARIANS ARE NOT THE GATE -- KEEPERS

WE ARE THE GATE -- WAYS
THE ONE PROFESSION DEDICATED TO ENSURING AMERICA'S
RIGHT TO KNOW --
AMERICA'S RIGHT TO KNOW -- AND REMEMBER --OUR PAST --

AMERICA'S RIGHT TO KNOW -- AND UNDERSTAND --OUR PRESENT --
AND AMERICA'S RIGHT TO KNOW --AND EVALUATE --

INFORMATION WHICH CAN DETERMINE OUR FUTURE --

THERE IS NO VIRTUE IN SILENCE --
WE MUST SPEAK OUT --

WE MUST SPEAK LOUD --
WE MUST SPEAK PROUDLY --
-- WE MUST INSIST THAT TODAY'S DEMOGRAPHIC --

-- SOCIAL-- ECONOMIC-- AND CULTURAL REALITIES --
REQUIRE EFFECTIVE LIBRARY SERVICES --

-- LIBRARY SERVICES WHERE PEOPLE LIVE-- WHERE THEY STUDY-- AND WHERE THEY WORK.
DESPITE THE PROBLEMS -- OUR LIBRARIES HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE ALIVE --

-- WITH PROGRAMS FOR NEW AMERICANS

-- WITH AIDS INFORMATION SERVICES
-- WITH PROGRAMS FOR LATCHKEY CHILDREN

-- FOR LITERACY -- FOR BUSINESS
LIBRARIANS ARE DESIGNING INNOVATIVE SERVICES --

-- TO ENSURE THAT PEOPLE -- -- CAN EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT

TO KNOW
IT IS IRONIC THAT ---- IN THIS SO-CALLED INFORMATION SOCIETY ----

THAT OUR NATIONAL TREASURE---- OUR LIBRARIES ---
-- ARE AT RISK --
THIS IS THE EIGHTH STOP FOR THE RALLY ON WHEELS

-- DICK DOUGHERTY AND I PLANNED THESE EVENTS --

TO SHOW THE MEDIA THAT THE PUBLIC KNOWS --

THEIR LIBRARIES ARE WORTH IT --
BUT I AM HERE TODAY --AS PRESIDENT OF THE
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION --

TO ASSURE YOU THAT THIS IS -- NOT THE LAST STOP
TODAY IS JUST THE BEGINNING --

THE BEGINNING OF A YEAR LONG MOBILIZATION TO GALVANIZE PUBLIC SUPPORT --
TO MOVE EFFECTIVE LIBRARY SERVICE --

TO THE TOP OF THE AMERICAN AGENDA --
PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE GATHERING HERE IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK

-- FOR THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES
DELEGATES TO THIS CONFERENCE WILL MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT LIBRARIES

RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH CAN PROFOUNDLY EFFECT
THE FUTURE OF AMERICA'S RIGHT TO KNOW --
LET'S TELL THESE DELEGATES THAT:

WE CARE ABOUT OUR LIBRARIES --
LETS TELL THEM  --

WE NEED OUR LIBRARIES  --
-- LETS TELL THEM THAT LIBRARIES ARE THE LIFE'BLOOD
OF OUR DEMOCRACY --
I WANT YOU TO TELL THE DELEGATES -- AND THE
POLITICIANS -- HERE AND NOW --

THAT YOU -- THE AMERICAN PEOPLE -- HAVE A RIGHT
TO KNOW --
AND THAT WE NEED WELL-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS

TO ENSURE THAT YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW CAN HAPPEN - -
LET ME HEAR YOU TELL THE POLITICIANS THAT

"WE WANT OUR LIBRARIES OPEN --"

"WE WANT OUR LIBRARIES FUNDED -"
LET ME HEAR YOU TELL THEM THAT:

WE WANT OUR GOVERNMENT TO PUBLISH INFORMATION

WE WANT TO BE AWARE OF THAT INFORMATION
WE WANT OUR GOVERNMENT TO MAKE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AND AFFORDABLE --

WE WANT INFORMATION BY AND ABOUT OUR GOVERNMENT --ACCESSIBLE --THROUGH OUR LIBRARIES --
LET'S TELL THEM THAT THEY DARE NOT--

-- TURN OVER OUR PUBLIC INFORMATION ASSETS -- TO PRIVATE INTERESTS --
LET'S TELL THE PEOPLE IN POWER THAT "WE HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW"

AND -- "WE HAVE A RIGHT TO LIBRARY SERVICE THAT UNDERGIRDs OUR RIGHT TO KNOW"
THAT LIBRARIES CAN GET US THROUGH HARD TIMES
WITH NO MONEY -- BETTER --

THAN MONEY WILL GET US THROUGH HARD TIMES --

-- WITH NO LIBRARIES.
-- THE MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCES A LIBRARY HAS --

GO HOME EVERY NIGHT --

THE LIBRARY STAFF
LIBRARIANS ARE NOT THE GATE -- KEEPERS

LIBRARIANS ARE THE GATE -- WAYS
OUR LIBRARIES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR PRESERVING

AMERICA’S RIGHT TO KNOW --
AMERICA’S RIGHT TO KNOW -- AND REMEMBER -- OUR PAST --

AMERICA’S RIGHT TO KNOW -- AND UNDERSTAND -- OUR PRESENT --
AND AMERICA'S RIGHT TO KNOW --AND EVALUATE --
INFORMATION WHICH CAN DETERMINE OUR FUTURE --
IN THIS INFORMATION SOCIETY LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS HOLD THE KEYS TO POWER

AND YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO THOSE KEYS --
WHAT I AM ASKING FOR TODAY IS THAT YOU ASK FOR YOUR RIGHTS

-- THAT YOU SHOW YOUR COMMITMENT
THERE IS NO VIRTUE IN SILENCE  --
YOU --THE PUBLIC -- MUST SPEAK OUT --

YOU MUST SPEAK LOUD --
YOU MUST SPEAK PROUDLY --
ONLY LIBRARIES CAN KEEP INFORMATION AFFORDABLE

--AVAILABLE --AND ACCESSIBLE --
FOR YOU --THE AMERICAN PUBLIC --
YOU MUST DEMAND EFFECTIVE LIBRARY SERVICES --

-- LIBRARY SERVICES WHERE YOU LIVE --

--LIBRARY SERVICES WHERE YOU STUDY --
LIBRARY SERVICES WHERE YOU WORK.
YOU MUST TELL THE POLITICIANS THAT YOUR LIBRARIES
HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE ALIVE --

OR MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU --
-- WITH PROGRAMS FOR NEW AMERICANS

-- WITH AIDS INFORMATION SERVICES
-- WITH PROGRAMS FOR LATCHKEY CHILDREN

-- FOR LITERACY -- FOR JOBSEEKERS -- FOR BUSINESS
LIBRARIANS ARE DESIGNING INNOVATIVE SERVICES --

-- TO ENSURE THAT YOU -- THE AMERICAN PUBLIC --

CAN EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW
LIBRARIES ALLOW CHILDREN TO EXPLORE --

BUSINESSPEOPLE TO PROSPER --

ADULTS TO DISCOVER --
YOU MUST ASK THE PUBLIC POLICY-MAKERS -- WHY --
EVEN IN THIS SO-CALLED INFORMATION SOCIETY --
IS OUR NATIONAL TREASURE -- -- OUR LIBRARIES --

-- AT RISK --
THIS IS A HISTORIC MOMENT --

YOU ARE MAKING HISTORY
PEOPLE RISE UP WHEN FIRE HOUSES CLOSE

OR WHEN THE POLICE ARE CUT
YOUR HERE TODAY -- TO TELL THE POLITICIANS THAT
YOU NEED YOUR LIBRARIES --
THAT LIBRARIES ARE NOT JUST BASIC SERVICES --

THAT LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS ARE ESSENTIAL.
YOUR HERE TODAY TO TELL THE DECISION-MAKERS

THAT IF THEY WANT TO SAVE MONEY --

THEY HAD BETTER FUND YOUR LIBRARIES
WE ARE HERE TODAY TO TELL THE PUBLIC --AND PUBLIC POLICY MAKERS --

-- THAT LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS ARE WORTH IT!
LIBRARIES CAN GET YOU THROUGH HARD TIMES WITH NO MONEY -- BETTER --

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-- WITH NO LIBRARIES.
LIBRARIES ARE NOT THE PROBLEM IN NYC --

Passed is

-- LIBRARIES ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE SOLUTION

-- TO THE PROBLEMS OF POVERTY --

-- HOMELESSNESS

-- AND UNEMPLOYMENT -- IN THE CITY.
YOU -- THE PEOPLE OF NEW YORK --

-- MUST INSIST THAT TODAY'S DEMOGRAPHIC --

-- SOCIAL

-- ECONOMIC

-- AND CULTURAL REALITIES --
REQUIRE EFFECTIVE LIBRARY SERVICES --

WHERE WE LIVE

WHERE WE STUDY

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-- FOR LITERACY

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-- ARE AT RISK --

THIS IS A HISTORIC MOMENT --

PEOPLE RISE UP WHEN FIRE HOUSES CLOSE

OR WHEN THE POLICE ARE CUT
NOW IT IS TIME TO TELL THE PUBLIC THAT LIBRARIES ARE WORTH IT --

THAT LIBRARIES ARE NOT JUST BASIC SERVICES --
THEY ARE ESSENTIAL.
I STARTED MY CAREER AS A LIBRARIAN AT A SMALL BRANCH OF THE BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY --

I KNOW FROM THE FRONT LINES HOW ESSENTIAL LIBRARIES ARE --
LIBRARIES CAN GET YOU THROUGH HARD TIMES WITH NO MONEY -- BETTER --

THAN MONEY WILL GET YOU THROUGH HARD TIMES --

-- WITH NO LIBRARIES.
LIBRARIES ARE NOT THE PROBLEM IN NYC --

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NOW IT IS TIME TO TELL THE PUBLIC THAT LIBRARIES ARE WORTH IT --

THAT LIBRARIES ARE NOT JUST BASIC SERVICES --
THEY ARE ESSENTIAL.
IT'S TIME TO TELL THE DECISION-MAKERS THAT IF THEY WANT TO SAVE MONEY --

THEY BETTER FUND LIBRARIES
I STARTED MY CAREER AS A LIBRARIAN AT A SMALL BRANCH OF THE BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY --

I KNOW FROM THE FRONT LINES HOW ESSENTIAL LIBRARIES ARE TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY.

LIBRARIES CAN GET YOU THROUGH HARD TIMES WITH NO MONEY -- BETTER -- THAN MONEY WILL GET YOU THROUGH HARD TIMES --

-- WITH NO LIBRARIES.

LIBRARIES ARE NOT THE PROBLEM IN NYC --

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-- TO THE PROBLEMS OF POVERTY --
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LIBRARIANS ARE DESIGNING INNOVATIVE SERVICES --
-- TO ENSURE THAT PEOPLE --
-- CAN EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO KNOW
IT IS IRONIC THAT --
-- IN THIS SO-CALLED INFORMATION SOCIETY --

THE POLITICIANS WANT TO EMASCULATE --
-- THIS CITY'S TREASURE --

-- OUR PUBLIC LIBRARIES --

THIS IS A HISTORIC MOMENT --

COMMUNITIES RISE UP WHEN FIRE HOUSES CLOSE
OR WHEN THE POLICE ARE CUT

NOW IT IS TIME TO TELL THE POLITICIANS THAT LIBRARIES ARE NOT JUST BASIC SERVICES --

THEY ARE ESSENTIAL.
YOU ARE HERE TO TELL THEM

THAT:

LIBRARIES ARE WORTH IT!
LET ME HEAR YOU TELL THE

POLITICIANS THAT

LIBRARIES ARE WORTH IT -- IN

EVERY TOWN -- IN EVERY CITY
LIBRARIES ARE WORTH IT IN
EVERY COUNTY -- IN EVERY STATE
--

LET ME HEAR YOU TELL THE WHITE
HOUSE CONFERENCE DELEGATES
THAT:
LIBRARIES ARE WORTH IT IN EVERY SCHOOL -- IN EVERY UNIVERSITY
LET ME HEAR YOU TELL THE WORLD:

LIBRARIANS AND LIBRARIES ARE WORTH IT!
We need to ensure for America that information is affordable and accessible.

When we are at risk -- when library services are threatened and librarians undervalued -- so is the very basis of our democracy.
We will not live in a true Information Society -- unless and until -- all people have the library services they need to live, learn and work effectively.

The business of librarians is not just information -- it is empowerment.
Librarians help children to explore -- businesspeople to succeed -- and adults to discover.

Librarians make information affordable, accessible and available.
If even one library closes -- and there are 20 in Massachusetts alone -- that is too many.

We must tell people if they want to save money, they must fund libraries.
We need and appreciate our library heroes who give so generously of themselves -- Thank you, Darrick and Michael.

But we need more. We need every member of this profession -- every person who has benefitted from library services -- to tell the story.
To tell our elected representatives that we need libraries -- and librarians -- and we need them to be well supported. Together -- we can and will make a difference.

We must speak out...

We must speak loud...

We must speak out proudly...
In closing, I would like to introduce someone very special -- Diane Francis, a single mother of two who learned to read at the Queens Library's Adult Learning Center.

Diane is going to sing a song she wrote about what the library and reading has meant to her. The song is called -- "Bluffin' it."