

SAVE OUR LIBRARY



Municipal Funding for the Montclair Library is Under Threat

Our wonderful town has a fabulous, award-winning library. For reasons that are difficult to fathom, certain members of the Town Council and Town Management have put under threat the independence of the library and the programming and services that the library provides. Based on a flawed "forensic audit," the Town Manager, Financial Advisor and CFO have recommended stripping the library of all municipal funding in excess of what is minimally required by state statute and have continued to withhold approved funding for this year's 3rd and 4th quarters.

The community has simply not been dealt with honestly and forthrightly about the nature and scope of the library's operations. **This has to stop!**

The library needs and deserves release of all funding approved for 2021

The library needs and deserves full and robust funding for 2022

What you can do:

- Call into the Town Council Meeting on **Monday, Nov 15th at 7pm**. Speak up with your concerns during public comments that begin early on in the meeting. To call in, dial **408-418-9388** and use access code **2346 388 8243**, then press #.
- Reach out to the Mayor and your Town Council member and encourage them to vote "**NO**" on the proposed agreement between the Township and the Trustees of the library.
- Demand the CFO pay the library previously budgeted funds.

Why is this important?

Without robust municipal funding for the library, we'll have:

- Fewer operating hours, impacting families and after school needs.
- Limited materials
- The closure of the Adult School in less than 2 years.
- Fewer resources for seniors and young children in a community without universal access to preschool or a senior center.
- Buildings that continue to have unreliable heating & cooling systems due to insufficient funds.

Montclair
Public
Library
Foundation

Summary of Inaccuracies in the Town's Forensic Audit of the Library

Incorrect Statements	Facts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2021 budget duplicated pension benefits and mislabeled the carryover of fund balances from the prior year, which had the effect of overstating expenses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These items were NOT included in the final 2021 budget approved by the Board of Trustees. The auditor based its findings on a budget dated June 14, 2021, clearly marked draft, that had not been approved by the Board of Trustees.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The auditor implied during the Council meeting that the library director and staff had appropriate time to respond to the audit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While the director and staff may have had time to respond to information requests, the library was not provided a copy of the audit until the Friday afternoon before the Tuesday, October 19, 2021 council meeting. If the library had been provided an early draft of the audit, library staff could have pointed out that the audit was relying on a draft budget, not the final budget approved by the Board of Trustees, among other errors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The auditor claimed that the audited financial statements were not available at the time it issued the report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report is dated October 14, 2021 and the Township Finance Committee was provided a copy of the audit on August 17, 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The library should have sought funding through grants and Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) loans before seeking funds from the Township above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The library had applied for the grant identified by the auditor, which was denied, and the library did not qualify for a PPP loan.

* For more information on the November 15, 2021 Council Meeting, you may view the [Agenda Packet](https://tinyurl.com/4w57su48) by following this link:
<https://tinyurl.com/4w57su48>