

COMMITTEE MEMBER

AGING
DISABILITIES
EDUCATION
HEALTH
NEW YORK CITY EDUCATION
SOCIAL SERVICES



SIMCHA FELDER
Senator, 22nd District

December 6, 2023

Mrs. Linda E. Johnson, President and CEO
Brooklyn Public Library
10 Grand Army Plaza
Brooklyn, NY 11238

Dear Mrs. Johnson,

I am contacting you regarding the Brooklyn Public Library's recent decision to end Sunday service at almost all its branches. I have always said that libraries and parks are the greatest places in the world. These community spaces are great equalizers. There are no barriers, everyone is welcome, and the world is at your fingertips. That is why I was deeply concerned and disappointed to learn of the decision to close almost all library branches on Sundays.

As you may know, many of Brooklyn's families and children cannot visit the library on a Saturday due to religious observance. In fact, visiting a library branch on Sunday may be the only day of the week they can go to their local library. By closing all library branches on Sunday, the Brooklyn Public Library is inherently disenfranchising many of its patrons.

Even before this reduction in service, there were few Brooklyn libraries that were open on Sundays. Now, closing all library branches on Sunday would be devastating to an entire population who, due to religious observance, would not be able to visit a library all weekend.

Simply put, Sunday-only closures are unfair and inequitable. I understand the difficult impact of budget cuts and tough choices that need to be made, but these cuts shouldn't be at the expense of one section of the population.

Therefore, I am requesting that the Brooklyn Public Library review its visitation numbers and select several branches that should remain open on Sunday and close on Saturday instead. This would be a budget neutral change that would allow many Brooklyn families to visit their local library at least one day of the weekend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Simcha Felder'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Simcha Felder
New York State Senator, 22nd District