June 6, 2013

Hon. Robert B. Tierney, Chair
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Preservation of the Pacific Street Library

Dear Chairman Tiemey:

I am writing to reiterate my support for the Request for Evaluation (RFE) of the Pacific Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library located at 25 Fourth Avenue in Brooklyn for landmark designation. My office has received numerous calls from constituents in my Senate district and beyond expressing concern and outrage over the potential closing, sale and demolition of this historic branch.

The Pacific Branch was the first Carnegie library in Brooklyn. This library is a renowned work by one of Brooklyn’s leading architects, Raymond Francis Almirall. Brooklyn is a borough that celebrates its diversity, its culture and its history; I join my colleagues and constituents in their fight to save this important piece of our borough’s legacy.

The Pacific Branch is a true community asset. For the residents of the Gowanus Houses, Wyckoff Houses, Warren Street Houses, northern Park Slope, Boerum Hill, Gowanus and Prospect Heights neighborhoods, this library is a beacon for neighbors, students and everyone who values the importance of educational enrichment.

Since 2004, the community has fought to landmark this building. I support my constituents in support of their goal of having this beautiful building landmarked and spared the wrecking ball. I respectfully request that the Landmarks Preservation Commission expedite the evaluation of this building and finally grant this building the official landmark designation it deserves. The Pacific Branch is an important part of the fabric of our community and this neighborhood gem must be preserved.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Senator Velmanette Montgomery
25th Senate District
Honorable Robert B. Tierney, Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, Ninth Floor
New York, New York 10007

Dear Chairman Tierney,

I write to you today on behalf of the Park Slope Civic Council’s Request for Evaluation (RFE) for the Pacific Branch Library at 25 Fourth Avenue in Brooklyn. The Brooklyn Public Library has announced plans to relocate the Pacific Branch to a new site adjacent to the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM). The relocation involves selling the Pacific Branch, which is the first Carnegie Library built in Brooklyn. The sale of this 1904 structure would be a historic loss to the community since it is almost certain to entail demolition of the Carnegie Library. I also observe that the Park Slope Civic Council made an earlier RFE request for this same building in 2004, but no action was taken.

I am especially concerned that the community could lose a significantly historic structure, designed by well known architect Raymond Francis Almirall, who has several Beaux Arts buildings already designated as New York City landmarks. An expedited approval of the Pacific Library Branch will ensure an important community landmark continues to contribute to the life and sense of place of the neighboring community. Preservation of such an important and historic resource becomes imperative in light of the significant streetscape changes driven by the Atlantic Yards development project and the up-zoning of Fourth Avenue.

Thank you for the review of the RFE from the Park Slope Civic Council. I look forward to a response from your office in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Joan L. Millman
Member of Assembly

CC: Michael Cairl, President – Park Slope Civic Council
     Linda Johnson, President & CEO – Brooklyn Public Library
March 26, 2013

Robert Tierney
Chairman, Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chairman Tierney,

I am writing to express my strong support for the preservation of the Pacific Branch Library. As the Councilmember representing the 33rd District in Brooklyn, I believe that we, as a City, have an obligation to protect our history and to preserve our communities. I respectfully urge the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the Pacific Branch Library as a New York City Landmark.

Located at the southeast corner of Pacific Street and Fourth Avenue, the Pacific Branch Library was constructed in 1903 and has the distinction of being the first of the Carnegie Libraries built in Brooklyn. The branch, originally designed by Brooklyn native Raymond F. Almirall as a children’s library, continues to embody the spirit and intent of the Carnegie Libraries, by providing much-needed resources to the Boerum Hill, Park Slope, and Gowanus communities. Today, the Beaux Arts building serves local seniors, students from the neighborhood schools, residents of the nearby public housing communities, and provides a central meeting location for many civic organizations and other groups. For almost 110 years, the Library has been an important institution and, while not officially designated, a community landmark for local families.

As you may know, the Pacific Branch Library is threatened by demolition in the near future. The Brooklyn Public Library intends to move from the Pacific Street location into a newly-constructed facility across Flatbush Avenue in 2016-2017. With the potential loss of the Church of the Redeemer, directly across from the Pacific Branch Library, and the surge of large-scale development in the surrounding Downtown Brooklyn area and along the Fourth Avenue corridor, the fear that our community will lose yet another historic structure is both great and real.
I urge you and the Commission to consider the Pacific Branch Library for designation as a New York City Landmark.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important and time-sensitive matter.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Stephen Levin
Councilmember, 33rd District
March 27, 2013

Mr. Robert B. Tierney, Chairman
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chairman Tierney:

I write this letter in support of the Park Slope Civic Council’s Request for Evaluation (RFE) for the Pacific Branch Library at 25 4th Avenue, Brooklyn. As you are by now aware, this branch library faces imminent demolition under a plan by The Brooklyn Public Library to relocate its Pacific Branch to a new building adjacent to the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and to sell the current library building.

This 1904 Branch Library was the first in Brooklyn funded by industrialist Andrew Carnegie. It is a well-designed and human-scaled building that lends a comforting feel to this stretch of 4th Avenue. The distinctive “radial-stacks” would merit their own special designation. This may be a small structure, but it is an important building, and it faces near-certain demolition.

I ask that the Landmarks Preservation Commission act upon this RFE immediately. If I may be of additional assistance, please feel free to contact me, or Mr. Alfred Chiodo. Thanking you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Letitia James
Member of the City Council

C: Mr. Michael Cairl, President, Park Slope Civic Council