

Your Name
Address
City, state, Zip
Phone
Email

Mayor Susan Morales
300 N. Main Street
Franklin, IL 60101

Date

Dear Mayor Morales,

History tells us that in times of crisis, people rely on their local libraries more than ever. Even in these challenging times, the Franklin Public Library remains an asset to our community. Throughout the Illinois Stay at Home order, library staff members have been working behind the scenes to provide virtual services. From COVID-19 and general health information, to assistance with government information, to virtual job assistance, we are here, helping to create stability and a sense of normalcy in the lives of Franklin residents.

As you work to reopen Franklin, know that the library is also working to find solutions to open its building doors safely, with regards to Personal Protective Equipment, safe materials handling, social distancing, and logistics.

We are confident that when those doors finally open, the library will be busy with Franklin residents needing help finding jobs, resources for small businesses, and assistance with state and federal aid forms.

I am aware that there is discussion of layoffs and furloughs of library staff. I ask that you take the long view when considering the Franklin Public Library and leave the staff intact. Please consider the following:

- Because most of our library staff are residents of Franklin, eliminating their paychecks will mean that our local businesses and stores will incur less revenue. Furloughs and layoffs will increase instability in our community.
- Whether paid by the library or through unemployment, staff are still receiving tax dollars. Keeping the payments local enables the larger federal pool to be used for others in the community who need it.

- Layoffs and furloughs undermine our staff's important work in preparing communities to learn, connect, evaluate information and thrive during any and all extenuating circumstances. Libraries that layoff now will have communities that are less prepared for the subsequent outbreaks of COVID-19 that many public health officials fear will come later in 2020.

Please remember that an investment in the library is an investment in the future of Franklin.

Sincerely,

Your Name Here
Library Director