



E-mail/ Fax transmittal

Community District 13 Distribution TO	Borough President Marty Markowitz FROM
May 16, 2007 DATE	Kevin Parris, Land Use & Community Coordinator Phone: (718) 802-3856 E-Mail: kparris@brooklynbp.nyc.org CONTACT
ULURP Recommendation 060209 POK Ulmer Park Branch Brooklyn Library RE:	4 NO. PAGES, INCLUDING COVER

Attached is the recommendation report for ULURP application 060209 POK

If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Parris at (718) 802-3856.

Distribution

NAME	TITLE	FAX	E-MAIL
Amanda Burden	City Planning Commission Chair	212-720-3356	ygruel@planning.nyc.gov
Hon. Christine Quinn	City Council Speaker	212-788-7207	quinn@council.nyc.ny.us
Purnima Kapur	Dir. DCP Brooklyn	718-596-2609	pkapur@planning.nyc.gov
Jackie Harris	DCP - Director of Land Use Review	212-720-3356	jharris@planning.nyc.gov
Gail Benjamin	Dir. City Council Land Use Division	212-788-7207	gbenjam@council.nyc.ny.us
Hon. Domenic Recchia	Council Member	718-373-0195	Recchia@council.nyc.ny.us
Marion Cleaver	Chair, CB 13	718-266-3920	
Chuck Reichenthal	District Manager, CB 13	718-266-3920	
Dionne Mack-Harvin	Brooklyn Public Library	718-398-3947	
Jon Benguiat	Dir. Planning and Dev, Brooklyn BP Office		jbenguiat@brooklynbp.gov
Richard Bearak	Deputy Dir. Planning and Dev, BP Office		rbearak@brooklynbp.gov

**Brooklyn Borough President
Recommendation**

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
22 Reade Street, New York, NY 10007
FAX # (212) 720-3356

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Return this completed form with any attachments to the Calendar Information Office, City Planning Commission, Room 2E at the above address.
2. Send one copy with any attachments to the applicants representatives as indicated on the Notice of Certification.

APPLICATION # 060209 POK

Ulmer Park Branch – Brooklyn Public Library

In the matter of an application submitted by the Brooklyn Public Library and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter for acquisition of property located at 2602 Bath Avenue for continued use as a branch library.

COMMUNITY DISTRICT NO.

13

BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN

RECOMMENDATION

- APPROVE
- APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS/CONDITIONS
- DISAPPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS/CONDITIONS
- DISAPPROVE

EXPLANATION OF RECOMMENDATION – MODIFICATIONS/CONDITIONS

- RECOMMENDATION ATTACHED
- RECOMMENDATION TO FOLLOW



May, 16 2007

BOROUGH PRESIDENT

DATE

**RECOMMENDATION FOR THE ACQUISITION
OF PROPERTY AT 2602 BATH AVENUE
TO CONTINUE USE AS A BRANCH LIBRARY
060209 POK**

PUBLIC HEARING

On April 18, 2007 Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz held a public hearing to consider a proposed action by the Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) to acquire the property located at 2602 Bath Avenue to ensure its continuation as a branch library. BPL staff noted that there are 58 branch libraries, with 7 of these facilities still under leasehold.

During the hearing, Council Member Vincent Gentile questioned the current initiative by the BPL to acquire all of their leased properties. A BPL representative noted that the goal is to have all of its leased properties under City ownership in order to alleviate the strain placed by leases on its operating budget. Staff for the borough president inquired what happens to the funds now being provided for the BPL to make lease payments after such property is subsequently acquired by the City on its behalf. The representative for BPL explained that the Office of Management and Budget has, in the past, allowed the BPL to use funds no longer held for payment of rent to be used to increase services by the library. Through this action, the BPL will be able to better use the library's limited budget to provide additional books, programming and other direct services to the community.

Chuck Reichenthal, the District Manager for Community Board 13, acknowledged on behalf of the board the importance of this library towards the community. Representatives for the family leasing to the BPL testified at the hearing that the practices used by the BPL during negotiations were unfair. In response to criticisms by members of the family that own the site leased to BPL, Council Member Domenic Recchia expressed his view that the negotiations between the City and the property owners were conducted in good faith.

CONSIDERATION

The borough president supports initiatives that facilitate the creation or continuation of education services to Brooklyn residents. As the cost to maintain public libraries as state-of-the-art increase, it is important to explore all ways in which to increase the funds available to these institutions. Through the conversion of leased properties over to city-owned properties, the BPL will be able to have more funds at its expense to provide extended services to the Gravesend, and greater Brooklyn, community. In addition, BPL will be in a better position to pursue capital improvements.

RECOMMENDATION

Be it resolved that the President of the Borough of Brooklyn, pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter, recommends that the City Planning Commission and the City Council approve the acquisition of property of this branch library.