



# City of Clawson

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J-04c

425 N. Main Street / Clawson, Michigan 48017  
(248) 435-4500 FAX (248) 435-0515

**CM 09-176-09      CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION FROM THE BLAIR MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD DISAPPROVING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2009-36, SETTING FORTH CHANGES IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF STATE GOVERNMENT**

**MOTION BY:** Councilmember Phillips  
**SUPPORTED BY:** Councilmember Moore

**RESOLVED**, the Resolution disapproving Executive Order No. 2009-36, setting forth changes in the organization of the Executive Branch of state government;

**WHEREAS**, Michigan's libraries are vital resources for Michigan families seeking jobs online, write resumes, filing for unemployment and disability benefits and accessing the internet; and

**WHEREAS**, Sixty-four percent of Michigan libraries report they are the only source of free internet access in their communities which is a critical link to technology and training for many who cannot afford it; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Library of Michigan holds the second largest collection of materials, is the third most visited library in the country and has the fifth highest circulation of state libraries nationally, the importance of this state resource is being ignored as both an educational and economic resource; and

**WHEREAS**, it is essential for the well-being of the citizens of the State of Michigan that libraries thrive as they are the cornerstones of a literate society and are on the cutting edge of a knowledge based economy; and

**WHEREAS**, State of Michigan Governor Jennifer M. Granholm's Executive Order No. 2009-36 goes much further than abolishing the Department of History, Arts and Libraries by diminishing the position, influence and stature of the library community and the State Library of Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Order fails to recognize statewide library services – MeLibrary online subscriptions, MeLCat interlibrary loan and MeL Tests and Tutorials – all resources used for research, education purposes, workforce development, job seeking and job preparation – were made possible through the leadership of the Library of Michigan and the collaboration, group purchasing and resource sharing of the entire library community saving the taxpayers \$72 million;

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Order calls for breaking up the Library of Michigan without real cost savings and calls for the creation of the Michigan Center for Innovation and Reinvention Board which is asked to 'preserve and maximize the benefits to the public of existing state library and historical resources including collections, buildings and skilled personnel' but does not include any library community representation;

**WHEREAS,** State aid to libraries serves as the maintenance of effort requirement by the federal government to sustain federal funding for the MeLibrary, MeLCat and MeL Tests and Tutorials and the Senate budget threatens the viability of the entire statewide interlibrary loan and resource sharing system which includes every library in the state – academic, public, k-12 and special libraries;

**WHEREAS,** the State Aid to Public Libraries Act 89 of 1977 requires libraries shall receive a total of \$1.50 per capita or approximately \$15.4 million – but are currently receiving 96 cents per capita or \$10 million – and the Senate-passed budget cuts library funding to \$7.5 million – less than half of what is statutorily required by state law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Clawson City Council acting as advocates of the people of State of Michigan and in support of resources that ensure a high quality of life for all, strongly urges the Michigan Legislature to:

- Oppose Executive Order No 2009-36
- Support all legislative efforts to maintain library services and keep their functions whole under the Library of Michigan within state government;
- Maintain state aid to libraries at \$10 million to retain the federal funding required to sustain the MeLibrary online subscription resources, MeLCat interlibrary loan and MeL Tests and Tutorials;
- Retain the position and role of the State Librarian.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor, the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders and members of the Michigan Legislature who represent our residents, the State Library of Michigan and neighboring communities.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:**

STATE OF MICHIGAN        )  
  )  
COUNTY OF OAKLAND     )

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION MADE, PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 425 N. MAIN STREET, CLAWSON, MICHIGAN ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2009 AT 7:30 P.M.

*G. Machele Kukuk*  
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G. MACHELE KUKUK, CITY CLERK



# Memo

**To:** John Szerlag, City Manager  
**From:** Cathleen A. Russ, Library Director  
**CC:**  
**Date:** 10/1/2009  
**Re:** Governor Granholm's Executive Order 2009-36

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On Monday, July 13, Governor Granholm issued Executive Order 2009-36, which abolished the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries. There were several other provisions in the Executive Order which affected Michigan's libraries and museums. Following the issuance of EO 2009-36, many library boards and museum boards discussed this at their August meetings, and made resolutions which stated their position on the Governor's action. The Troy Public Library Advisory Board did not meet in August, but addressed this issue at the meeting held on Thursday, September 10, 2009.

Since July 13, there have been some changes to the original Executive Order. Below is a brief summary of what has changed:

1. On August 26, the governor issued an executive directive clarifying some of the issues. On September 9, the governor issued an amending executive order, 2009-43 (<http://www.michigan.gov/gov/0,1607,7-168-21975-221451--,00.html>). This addressed concerns about:
  - a. The priority of the Michigan eLibrary, MeL (Michigan Electronic Library), and MeLCat (statewide interlibrary loan system)
  - b. Keeping the Library of Michigan whole and in state government
  - c. Having representation from the library community on the Michigan Center for Innovation and Reinvention Board
  - d. Retaining the position of a state librarian
2. Although the Senate attempted to pass a series of bills to address the original concerns about EO 2009-36 before EO 2009-43 was issued, the House did not follow suit. On

September 11, EO 2009-36 as amended by 2009-43 took effect. In short, the Department of History, Arts and Libraries will be eliminated. The Library of Michigan will be moved to the Department of Education.

3. Funding remains the most important and most contentious issue. While the EO 2009-43 addressed many concerns, it also made statements about "subject to available appropriations." With regard to the \$10M in state aid to public libraries and the maintenance of effort required for the \$5M in federal funding that supports MeL and MeLCat, there are serious problems. To start, the governor and House did hold state aid to libraries at the requested \$10M in the Department of Education budget. The Senate had cut state aid to \$7.5M in the HAL budget. When they came to the conference committee meetings last week, the House had libraries funded at \$10M and the Senate had libraries as a line item with nothing. On Sunday the committee ended up with proposing a 40% cut to state aid at \$6M. This has serious implications for the ongoing operations of the Suburban Library Cooperative and the maintenance of effort required for the federal funds for MeL and MeLCat. A potential loss of \$800,000 to those programs is anticipated and there are serious questions as to whether they will survive at that reduced level of funding.

There is talk in the House of a supplemental budget with the potential of restoring the \$10M in state aid. With regard to the Library of Michigan, the Michigan Library Association has been asked to make a recommendation for an appointment to the MCIR Board. At this point the MCIR Board's focus has been significantly curtailed and its purpose seems somewhat questionable.

Michigan Library Association President Larry Neal, in an email to me, stated, "If state aid to libraries is not restored to \$10M by the time your city council meets on October 5, then the most effective course of action would be for them to have you send a letter to your legislators illustrating the impact of the loss of state aid and its consequences on the library, and thus citizens, you serve."