Dear Mayor,

The East Village Residents Group has been concerned with the reuse of the Old Central Library ("old library") after operations are shifted to the New Facility ("new library"). Many feel the north East Village is losing a public space and a community asset. Our Planning and Design Committee has considered the issue; and identified several options for adaptive reuse that would be beneficial to our community.

On Thursday May 16, after hearing presentations on the new and old libraries, the East Village Residents Group unanimously voted on a two part resolution:

In part 1, members voiced their strongest opposition to reusing the site as a homeless shelter.

In part 2, members ask that a broad range of adaptive reuses be considered as alternatives to the homeless shelter plan.

Community members want the site to be a public, community-enhancing asset. Options to create an interim home for the YMCA or the creation of artistic and entrepreneurial space generated much positive support. Community members prudently choose not to put forward any particular plan. Instead, they hoped to initiate a collaborative process to find the best community-serving option after the feasibility of each option had been fully explored.

We ask you to join us in opposing the creation of a homeless shelter at the old library and hope that we can work together collaboratively to explore community enhancing alternatives.
I have attached our four proposals for your consideration.

Very Respectfully,

Todd Hutchins,
Chairman of the Planning Review Committee
East Village Residents Group
eastvillageresidentsgroup@yahoo.com