

Whereas libraries are critical centers of community engagement and libraries play a vital role in times of community crisis;

Whereas, on April 27, 2015, civil unrest following the death of Baltimore resident Freddie Gray sparked several incidents of destruction in Baltimore City;

Whereas, public schools, colleges and universities and many local businesses were closed April 28 as a result of these incidents;

Whereas local residents, particularly children, looked to the Enoch Pratt Free Library (EPFL) to provide a safe haven in Baltimore City neighborhoods; and

Whereas, all branches of the EPFL, including the Pennsylvania Avenue branch, located within a block of one of the primary locations of destruction, remained open throughout that week; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association, on behalf of its members:

1. recognizes the efforts made by the Enoch Pratt Free Library and its staff members to keep branches open, particularly the Pennsylvania Avenue branch and serve as an anchor in the community;
2. recognizes the example of community leadership demonstrated by the EPFL staff during the days of unrest in Baltimore City the week of April 27, 2015.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, June 30, 2015, in San Francisco, California


Keith Michael Fiels, Executive Director
and Secretary of the ALA Council