



MEDIA RELEASE

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More Information: Joy Testa Cinquino, 716-858-7182, testaj@buffalolib.org

DOWNTOWN CENTRAL LIBRARY RESTORES AFTERNOON HOURS MEASURES IN PLACE WITH BUFFALO PEACEMAKERS

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Director John Spears reported today:

"I am pleased to announce that the Central Library will restore regular weekday afternoon hours beginning Monday, March 27. The Library had temporarily reduced public hours by closing at 3:00 p.m. during the week because of escalating safety concerns. The *Buffalo Peacemakers*, known for their community work to redirect youth into healthy lifestyles, will be inside and on library grounds in an effort to provide support through teen mentoring and programming."

Pastor James Giles, president and CEO of *Back to Basics Outreach Ministries* and the outreach coordinator for the *Buffalo Peacemakers* said, "It is significant when a community agency works together with a public institution for the wellbeing of the citizenship. This partnership effort is designed to give comfort and assurances that the Library is a safe place to be and its tranquility and peace shall be restored."

As an additional safety measure, patrons visiting the Central Library weekdays after 3:00 p.m. will only be able to access the main entrance at Washington Street, between Broadway and Clinton streets, (across from Lafayette Square). The entrance is fully accessible with a large walkway ramp, bike rack, and book drop. The Library entrance at Ellicott Street will be closed weekdays after 3:00 p.m.

"Libraries are here to serve in a safe and welcoming way and I am confident the changes we are making will be effective," stated Spears.

During the temporary closure, use of the meeting rooms, recording studios and one-on-one technology trainings continued to take place, with up to 75 people using library services after 3 p.m. on any given weekday. Beginning Monday, March 27, the Central Library will be open: Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., and Sunday 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Online services are available 24/7 at www.BuffaloLib.org.

About the Peacemakers

The *Buffalo Peacemakers* provide specialized services for at-risk individuals, families, and groups. They work to build relationships, gather information, and mediate conflicts to prevent violence. The Peacemakers mentor and redirect youth into healthy lifestyles. Staff are drawn from four community peace-making groups - *Back to Basics Outreach Ministries, Inc.*, the *Buffalo United Front*, *Buffalo F.A.T.H.E.R.S.*, and the *Stop the Violence Coalition, Inc.*

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