



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“The East Side of Addiction” Authors Discuss Addiction and Recovery during Book Talk at the Worcester Public Library

Program is part of WPL’s Community Conversation Series

Worcester, MA – The Worcester Public Library will host Addiction & Recovery: Book Talk and Discussion with Worcester authors James DiReda and Jack Maroney, and School Safety Director Robert Pezzella on Tuesday, August 1 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

DiReda, Maroney, and Pezella will discuss their experiences leading to, and during the writing of their biographical tale of substance abuse addiction and recovery. “The East Side of Addiction” tells the story of how drug addiction ravaged a working class immigrant enclave in Worcester, and the close-knit group of young friends who lived there - and how several of the lucky ones managed to survive.

James DiReda holds a dual Ph.D. in Sociology and Social Work from Boston University, a Masters in Social Work from the University of Connecticut, and is currently the Director of the Bachelor of Social Work Program at Anna Maria College. Dr. DiReda is also a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker with over 30 years of experience as a clinician and consultant in the area of substance use disorders, including prevention, treatment, education, and advocacy.

Jack Maroney is currently the CEO and President of Creative Addiction & Recovery Estates, Inc., an organization dedicated to providing new opportunities for those suffering from substance use disorders. With 26 years of treatment experience, Jack is a recovery advocate focused on providing innovative solutions and improving outcomes predicated on the belief that healing through Compassion, Understanding, Respect, and Empathy, represent a true CURE to lasting transformation.

Robert Pezzella is the Director of School Safety for the Worcester Public Schools,

developing, implementing, and overseeing student and staff safety programs. Along with Jack Maroney; Dr. Mattie Castiel, the Commissioner of Public Health; and Hector Reyes, Mr. Pezella founded the Hector Reyes House, the first culturally sensitive residential facility for persons with addiction in Central Massachusetts. Mr. Pezella has worked with many treatment and direct care services in the addiction/recovery field.

The Worcester Public Library will hold Community Conversations on a variety of topical subjects at the Main Library, 3 Salem Square, Worcester. All are welcome to attend.

The Adult Program will offer classes at the Main Library on improving yourself, your community, and your world, including learning about gardening, civic engagement, health and wellness, and computer and business classes.

For more information on the Addiction & Recovery: Book Talk and Discussion contact Linnea Sheldon, Community Relations and Communications Manager, at 508-799-1654 or lsheldon@mywpl.org. Check <http://www.mywpl.org/> for updates on the Summer Reading program, and for a complete listing of all programs, please visit: <http://www.mywpl.org/?q=classes-events>

Events and prizes for the Summer Reading Program were made possible thanks to the generous contributions of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, UniBank, Enterprise, Fallon Health, Cornerstone Bank, the Price Chopper Golub Foundation, and the Worcester Public Library Foundation and Friends of the Worcester Public Library.

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Worcester Public Library, A department of the City of Worcester

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