



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2, 2017

MEDIA CONTACT:

Linnea Sheldon

508-799-1654

lsheldon@mywpl.org

***The Worcester Public Library Hosts
"Freedom's Agenda: African-American Petitions to the
Massachusetts Government 1600-1900"***

Worcester, MA – The Worcester Public Library will host an exhibit and presentation of "Freedom's Agenda: African-American Petitions to the Massachusetts Government 1600-1900." The exhibit will run through March 31, and highlights petitions from African Americans to the Massachusetts government dating to colonial times.

The exhibit is part of a Harvard University project, and is supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The digital archive preserves thousands of petitions at the Massachusetts Archives. Petitioners include historical figures such as Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth, amongst others.

The exhibit includes topics on slavery, the abolitionist movement, segregation, the right to serve in the military, and voting rights, amongst others. In conjunction with the exhibit, a presentation by Dr. Stephen Kenney of the Commonwealth Museum will be held on Tuesday, March 7 from 6 to 7 p.m. All are welcome.

From the exhibit: "This exhibit represents a first chapter in an unfinished history. These African-American petitions are reminders that principled struggle conveys dignity even in defeat. It is also important to remember that the larger story is not one of failure. Building on the foundation of earlier activism, the modern civil rights movement achieved unimaginable success. While we have not attained perfection as a society, we can celebrate these twentieth century milestones in the quest for fairness and equality."

For more information on the Worcester Public Library and a complete list of events and programs visit www.mywpl.org. For more information on "Freedom's Agenda: African-American Petitions to the Massachusetts Government 1600-1900" visit <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mus/exhibits/exhibits-traveling.html>. For more information on the exhibit and presentation at the Worcester Public Library contact Linnea Sheldon, Community Relations and Communications Manager, at 508-799-1654 or lseldon@mywpl.org.

3 Salem Square, Worcester, MA 01608 508.799.1655
mywpl.org [facebook.com/worcesterpubliclibrary](https://www.facebook.com/worcesterpubliclibrary)
Worcester Public Library, a Department of the City of Worcester
###