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MEDIA CONTACT:

Linnea Sheldon

508-799-1654

lsheldon@mywpl.org

***Worcester Public Library and City Officials Celebrate
National Friends of Libraries Week and Honor Friends of WPL***

Worcester, MA – The Worcester Public Library (WPL) honored the Friends of the Worcester Public Library with the help of Mayor Joseph M. Petty and Acting City Manager Eric D. Batista on Tuesday, October 18. The Friends received a proclamation from the Mayor during their monthly meeting, proclaiming the week of October 16, 2022 to be Friends of Libraries Week in Worcester, MA.

The Friends of the Worcester Public Library is an organization of volunteers who help enhance the library's services to the people of the Worcester area. They raise money to support programs and events at the library, including the popular museum pass program. They also advocate to help ensure the library continues to get the resources needed to serve the public. They are one of the oldest Friends groups in Massachusetts, and were established in 1956.

Membership in the Friends of WPL is open to all members of the community, and costs as little as \$15 per year. Membership benefits include 20% off purchases at the Friends Bookstore, tax-deductible membership dues, invitations to special events, volunteer opportunities, and the satisfaction of helping to improve Worcester's quality of life.

"Your engagement and involvement in our community helps us pay attention to the needs of our residents, and provide for those needs with more programming and more opportunities to connect," said Acting City Manager Eric Batista. "It is important work, and you can clearly see the library couldn't do it without you. The entire community benefits from your hard work and dedication."

Representatives from the City of Worcester, the WPL Board of Directors, the Worcester Public Library Foundation, and the staff of the library were on hand to show their appreciation.

National Friends of Libraries Week is an initiative of United for Libraries, and will be held October 16 - 22, 2022. The celebration is in its 17th year, and is designed to not only honor Friends groups, but also as a way to raise awareness and promote membership.

For more information on the Worcester Public Library and a complete list of events and programs visit mywpl.org. For more information on National Friends of Libraries Week contact Linnea Sheldon, Community Relations and Communications Manager, at 508-799-1654 or lsheldon@mywpl.org.

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Worcester Public Library
3 Salem Square, Worcester, MA 01608 508.799.1655 mywpl.org
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