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**March 11, 2022**

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***Legislators and Library Advocates Show Their Support for the Library  
and Honor Senator Harriette L. Chandler at the Worcester Public Library***

Worcester, MA – The Worcester Public Library (WPL) hosted a Legislative Breakfast on Friday, March 11. The event was well attended, with legislators, library supporters and advocates coming out to show their support for libraries.

Elected officials and library representatives spoke on behalf of the library and emphasized the need for funding and support in FY23 and beyond.

After a welcome by WPL Executive Director Jason Homer, City Manager Edward M. Augustus, Jr. opened the program with his thoughts on libraries. "Libraries are so critically important to the fabric of the community, to making spaces where people feel welcome, to connect with resources to fully reach their potential," he said. "Thank you for what you do to make libraries come alive, and thank you to our legislative delegation for what you do to support libraries across Massachusetts."

Mayor Joseph M. Petty then presented a proclamation and a gold Worcester Public Library card to Senator Harriette L. Chandler in honor of her service to our community and support of libraries and educational opportunities for all.

Senator Chandler expressed her gratitude and assured the crowd that she would be using her new gold library card. She also expressed her love of WPL and the importance of libraries, touching on the importance of the Worcester Talking Book Library in particular. "I live in an apartment building now, and I know that two residents get talking books every week," she said. "I know what that means to them because it puts them in touch with the world, it really makes a huge difference."

Speakers for the event included Mayor Joseph M. Petty; Senator Harriette L. Chandler; Senator Michael O. Moore; Representative Mary S. Keefe; Representative James J.

O'Day; Representative Meghan Kilcoyne; City Councilor Candy Mero-Carlson; City Manager Edward M. Augustus, Jr.; Vicky Biancolo, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners; Michelle Eberle, Massachusetts Library System; Jeanette Lundgren, Executive Director of CW MARS; Jennifer Harris, Massachusetts Library Association; and WPL Executive Director Jason Homer.

The legislators and library representatives pointed out how important libraries are to the communities they serve, and encouraged the public to contact their representatives to urge them to support funding for libraries. "I attended the ribbon cutting and I saw the beautiful new façade, and saw the children's room, and the makers space, the beautiful teen room, and this atrium, and I thought to myself, 'Hello new hometown,'" said Vicky Biancolo, Commissioner, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. "I realized that day that Worcester is a city that not only understands the value of libraries, but also has its eye on the future. When we fund our priorities, they're an expression of our values, and this is one of Worcester's."

The overarching theme of the breakfast supported the topic of Massachusetts Libraries: Getting It Done, and spoke to the importance of ample funding for libraries, in order to build and grow library services to meet the changing needs of the communities they serve.

Homer concluded the program with his thanks to the library community and sang the praises of all library staff. "We as librarians often take a lot of things on, we try to tackle different problems in our community, whether it's homelessness, the opioid crisis, or welcoming new Afghani refugees," he said. "I am immensely proud of my staff and the entire discipline of librarianship."

For more information on the Worcester Public Library and a complete list of events and programs visit [mywpl.org](http://mywpl.org). For more information on the Legislative Breakfast contact Linnea Sheldon, Community Relations and Communications Manager, at 508-799-1654 or [lsheldon@mywpl.org](mailto:lsheldon@mywpl.org).

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