



Edward M. Augustus, Jr.  
City Manager

CITY OF WORCESTER

November 30, 2015

To the Worcester School Committee:

The attached communication is relative to an update of the status of the One City, One Library initiative as received from Geoffrey Dickenson, Head Librarian at the Worcester Public Library and Christine Murray, Executive Director of the Worcester Public Library Foundation and forwarded for review by your Honorable Body.

The attached communication also formally recognizes the Worcester Public Library Foundation for construction and renovation at Goddard School of Science and Technology, Roosevelt, Tatnuck Magnet, and Burncoat Preparatory schools with a cost value of \$828,831.38 for the One City, One Library initiative and to accept equipment and materials in the branch libraries at Goddard School of Science and Technology, Roosevelt, Tatnuck Magnet, and Burncoat Preparatory schools for a total value of \$686,510.68.

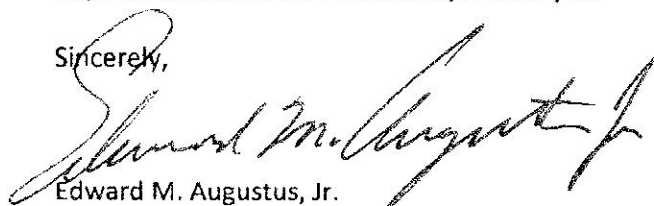
To date, school library branches are open at Roosevelt, Tatnuck Magnet, and the Goddard School of Science and Technology with a branch in process at Burncoat Preparatory. The One City, One Library Initiative has been highly successful and embraced by the community, parents, teachers and most importantly, the students who are able to enjoy wonderful library services. It serves as a strong example of the effectiveness of public/private partnerships.

We all know the importance of reading proficiently as it pertains to the future success of our students. In 2010, a national study commissioned by the Annie E. Casey Foundation revealed that students who don't read proficiently by third grade are four times more likely to leave high school without a diploma than proficient readers. At the time of that report, according to the Worcester Education Collaborative, 59% of students in our public schools were failing to reach this benchmark.

The One City, One Library initiative is a quality tool to promote reading in our schools. The branches are bringing additional, critical services to our students. The library and its branches help to cultivate the imagination, encourage creativity, and foster educational growth and attainment.

Please accept the attached items on behalf of the Worcester Public Library and the Worcester Public Library Foundation and continue to support and promote the One City, One Library initiative as an important asset in our community. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Edward M. Augustus, Jr.  
City Manager



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## One City, One Library

In 2010, a national study commissioned by the Annie E. Casey Foundation found that students who cannot read proficiently by the third grade, are four times more likely to leave high school without a diploma, compared to proficient readers. In the City of Worcester, 59% of third grade students in our public schools are failing to reach this benchmark, which portends they are at significant risk of dropping out of school or failing to earn a high school diploma.

The *One City, One Library* (OCOL) initiative was created in response to this overwhelming need to help our students achieve grade-level reading proficiency. This project is establishing public library branches in a number of Worcester's elementary schools, continuing to enrich neighborhoods and the community. The current OCOL branches, established at Roosevelt Elementary, Tatnuck Magnet Elementary and the Goddard School of Science and Technology, have created exciting opportunities for students to excel at reading and learning, and have provided the communities in which they are located with additional access to library services thanks to the collaboration of our private and public community partners.

The collaboration between the Worcester Public Library and Worcester Public Schools provides students, teachers, and the public with a wealth of resources, including but not limited to, books, magazines, electronic databases audio material and much more. The project is not only bringing library material to the children but also trained public library staff to assist them in accessing the material for homework and the pure joy of reading.



### Successes

The success of this initiative is evidenced in the smiling faces of the students and patrons who use the libraries, and also in the findings of the UMass Donahue Institute's research evaluating the progress of *One City, One Library*. According to the study, parents and students responding to the surveys indicated that the OCOL branch libraries have motivated their children/them to read more, have helped their children/them improve their reading skills, have helped their children/them find stories they liked, and have provided a safe place for their children/them to spend time outside of school hours.

### Awards

The success of OCOL has been noticed. In early 2015, the Kennedy School's Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University recognized OCOL with a **Bright Ideas** designation, which is given to creative and promising government programs and partnerships. In the spring of 2015, OCOL received the **United Way's Ted Coghlin Community Citizen Award** given for its outstanding community focus and leadership, with an emphasis on placing children's success in the forefront. And most recently, OCOL received the **Massachusetts Nonprofit Network's 2015 Excellence in Collaboration Award**. For this award, OCOL was selected from a field of nearly 200 nominations for exemplifying the most innovative, creative and effective work being done throughout the Commonwealth. Finally, the OCOL branch librarians were recognized for their outstanding service to the community when they received the **City of Worcester's Eleanor Riik Service Excellence Award** earlier this year.

## Goddard Branch

The Goddard Branch Library opened on April 9, 2014 thanks to the generosity of UMass Medical School, Hanover Insurance Group Foundation, and the City of Worcester. The branch holds over 5,000 books, magazines, and other items. The technology available to students and the community includes an early literacy station, five state of the art computers, 25 iPads with learning apps, and a smartboard. The branch also houses a teen collection, and teen zone, which is frequented regularly by area teens.

The branch library is open six days a week. School hours are Monday through Friday, and public hours are 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

### Year-to-Date Statistics (January - November 2015)

Visitors	56,575
Cards Issued	159
Items Loaned	25,521
Public Programs	244
Public Program Attendance	1,707
Class Visits	576
Number of Students	12,280
Reference Questions	8,547
Computer Sessions	7,282

### Offerings

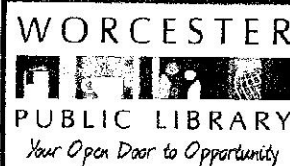
In addition to a robust offering of public programs, library staff host weekly class visits, which include a story or a mini lesson at the beginning, followed by time for children to browse the stacks for books and encourage them to reserve any book they wish. Each branch has a copy of the English Language Arts Standards, which helps staff incorporate the curriculum into the class time visits.

The Goddard Branch also hosts several special events and programs during the year. This year the branch took part in National Library Week with special guest readers Dr. Melinda Boone, former Superintendent of the Worcester Public Schools, and State Representative Kate Campanale who enthusiastically read "The Little Prince" by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. Other events during the year included a magic show, and storytime with the Worcester Fire Department.



### Summer Reading

The Library held a very successful Summer Reading Program with a Superhero theme for 2015. The program included kick-off events at each one of the Branches. The Goddard Branch held a kick-off celebration on June 26, which included storytimes, fun crafts and games, and refreshments. 619 patrons attended the kick-off at the branch.



## Roosevelt Branch

The Roosevelt Branch Library opened on October 30, 2013, thanks to the generosity of UMass Medical School and the City of Worcester. The branch holds over 5,000 books, magazines, and other items. The technology available to students and the community includes an early literacy station, five state of the art computers, 25 iPads with learning apps, and a smartboard.

The branch library is open six days a week. School hours are Monday through Friday, and public hours are 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturday from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

### Year-to-Date Statistics (January - November 2015)

Visitors	27,901
Cards Issued	149
Items Loaned	23,560
Public Programs	224
Public Program Attendance	2,185
Class Visits	469
Number of Students	9,630
Reference Questions	7,377
Computer Sessions	1,157

### Offerings

In addition to a robust offering of public programs, library staff host weekly class visits, which include a story or a mini lesson at the beginning, followed by time for children to browse the stacks for books and encourage them to reserve any book they wish. Each branch has a copy of the English Language Arts Standards, which helps staff incorporate the curriculum into the class time visits.

The Roosevelt Branch also hosts several special events and programs during the year. This year the branch took part in National Library Week with special guest readers Erica Ayisi, former reporter for Channel 3 News and Fin and Joey Goldstein of the Worcester Sharks, who read Fin's favorite book "Clark the Shark" and brought some special treats for the students. Many other fun events took place during the year including a Kindergarten Open House and puppet show.



### Summer Reading

The Library held a very successful Summer Reading Program with a Superhero theme for 2015. The program included kick-off events at each one of the Branches. The Roosevelt Branch held a kick-off celebration on June 26, which included storytimes, a bounce house, fun crafts and games, and refreshments. 325 patrons attended the kick-off at the branch.



## Tatnuck Magnet Branch

The Tatnuck Magnet Branch Library opened on November 27, 2013, thanks to the generosity of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, UMass Medical School, and the City of Worcester. The branch holds over 5,000 books, magazines, and other items. The technology available to students and the community includes an early literacy station, five state of the art computers, 25 iPads with learning apps, and a smartboard.

The branch library is open six days a week. School hours are Monday through Friday, and public hours are 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

### Year-to-Date Statistics (January - November 2015)

Visitors	50,003
Cards Issued	145
Items Loaned	25,845
Public Programs	280
Public Program Attendance	2,211
Class Visits	519
Number of Students	10,548
Reference Questions	9,230
Computer Sessions	3,824

### Offerings

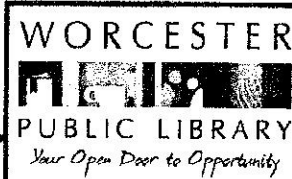
In addition to a robust offering of public programs, library staff host weekly class visits, which include a story or a mini lesson at the beginning, followed by time for children to browse the stacks for books and encourage them to reserve any book they wish. Each branch has a copy of the English Language Arts Standards, which helps staff incorporate the curriculum into the class time visits.

The Tatnuck Magnet Branch also hosts several special events and programs during the year. This year the branch took part in National Library Week with special guest readers State Senator Harriette Chandler, Tim Garvin of the United Way of Central Massachusetts, Kate McEvoy-Zdonczyk of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, and Jackie Penny, author of "Goodnight Worcester." The branch also hosted other popular events throughout the year including a magic show and henna tattoos.



### Summer Reading

The Library held a very successful Summer Reading Program with a Superhero theme for 2015. The program included kick-off events at each one of the Branches. The Tatnuck Magnet Branch held a kick-off celebration on June 26, which included storytimes, a bounce house, fun crafts and games, refreshments, and a performance. 713 patrons attended the kick-off at the branch.



# One City, One Library

## Lilly (Mobile Library Services)

Lilly, a converted box truck, hit the road on January 8, 2014. The "younger" sister of Libby, the Worcester Public Library's first mobile library vehicle, Lilly is stocked with over 2,500 children's books, technology and other items. In fiscal year 2015, Lilly and Libby together made over 890 stops, welcomed more than 14,700 people on board, answered over 11,800 questions, and circulated over 57,000 books and other materials.

Lilly visits many public elementary schools, as well as private and charter schools. The mobile library is well-suited to the many early education programs she visits as well. With the addition of Lilly, the library has been able to visit all elementary schools and programs once every four weeks throughout the school year. School visits are close to three hours, and other community programs are an hour visit.

Lilly was made possible through the generous contributions of the United Way of Central Massachusetts for the purchase of the vehicle, the University of Massachusetts Medical School for the books and technology, and the City of Worcester. We look forward to a partnership with Quinsigamond Community College and Worcester State University for the continued funding of Lilly.



## Summer Reading Program

The 2015 Superhero Summer Reading Program was a smashing success! The three *One City, One Library Branches* held their kick-off events on June 26, with bounce houses, games, stories, crafts, refreshments, and performances. The branches held a combined total of 162 public programs during the summer months, which attracted a total of 1,773 patrons.

The Worcester Public Library Summer Reading Program 2015 had 1,664 people sign up for reading, with 416,927 minutes read by children and teens, and babies and toddlers completing 19,642 bubbles, each representing a step in learning literacy skills. Adults read 1,084 books as part of the program. Reading during the summer months is important for all of our patrons, young learners, and students. It benefits their academic achievement, and helps prevent the summer learning loss (summer slide).

## One City, One Library Sponsors

In partnership with the Worcester Public Library, the OCOL project was made possible by the strong support of the City of Worcester and the Worcester Public Schools. Community partners include The George I. Alden Trust, A.L. Purinton Corporation, Cardinal Construction Inc., Clark University, Coghlin Electric Contractors Inc., Ruth H. and Warren A. Ellsworth Foundation, College of the Holy Cross, Fine Painting Inc., The George F. and Sybil H. Fuller Foundation, The Hanover Insurance Group, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, The Hermann Foundation, Home Depot, Knight Security Inc., MCPHS University, NAL's Paint Center, Quinsigamond Community College, OCOL Committee, Rotmans, The Stoddard Charitable Trust, Sunshine Sign Corporation, United Way of Central Massachusetts, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester Educational Development Foundation, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester Public Library Foundation, and Worcester State University.

