



December 1, 2023

Mayor Justin Elicker
City of New Haven
165 Church Street

Via electronic delivery

Dear Mayor Elicker:

Please accept these statements of support for the re-appointment of the following Board members, whose current terms expire in January 2024 and who wish to continue serving on the New Haven Free Public Library Board for their third (thus final consecutive) terms.

LIBRARY BOARD

Dr. Lauren Anderson
Chair

Maria Bernhey
City Librarian & Director

Lee Cruz

Hon. Justin Elicker
Ex-Officio Member

Andrew Giering
Vice Chair

Giulia Gambale

Susan Lamar
Treasurer

Claudia Merson

Hon. Jeanette Morrison
Aldermanic Liaison

Shana Schneider

Jeanette Sykes

Dr. Lauren Anderson, an Edgewood resident, is an active, contributing member of the Library board. A former professor of Education with a background in critical literacy and now a local business owner, Lauren's enthusiasm for the Library, its staff and its programming are evident. Lauren has served as Vice President and was subsequently elected President of the Library board, a position she has held now for a few years. She is an inclusive, trusted presence on the board, and a regular presence across multiple local Library branches. Since the start of her last term, Lauren has attended all 32 meetings and has participated robustly in any necessary exchanges and discussion in between those meetings.

Ms. Claudia Merson, an East Rock resident, has been a longtime supporter of the Library and a dedicated Library board member. She brings invaluable wisdom from her many years of experience as the Director of Public School Partnerships at Yale University, as well as her prior roles as an educator, librarian, and program and curriculum developer, including at the American School in Dhaka Bangladesh and the International School of Geneva Switzerland. Claudia's expertise in balancing innovative programming with reliable administrative leadership and deep regard for long-term sustainability assist the board greatly in its core functions. Since the start of her last term, the Board has held 32 meetings; Claudia has missed only five meetings, largely due to serious and unavoidable health matters. She has participated robustly in any necessary exchanges and discussion in between those meetings.

The Board of Directors of the New Haven Free Public Library is honored that these individuals have expressed an interest in continued service.

Should you have any questions for us, please feel free to get in touch, of course.

Thank you so much for your attention to the reappointment of these candidates to the Board of the New Haven Free Public Library.

Sincerely,

Lauren Anderson
President, Library Board of Directors