



## **HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY** **INTRODUCES NEW OPERATIONAL MODEL**

**Hartford, CT (December 29, 2017)** — The Hartford Public Library confirmed today that the Library will be fully implementing a Strategic Branch Restructuring Plan on January 2, 2018, to create an enhanced and more sustainable service model that will enable HPL to deliver more hours and better service system wide. This restructuring is the outcome of a nine-month strategic planning initiative and a four-month transition period from the time of announcement of the new operational model and full implementation.

“Our library serves, and must continue to serve our diverse and changing neighborhoods and communities with services, programs, and collections so that all residents can learn, succeed, and thrive,” says Greg Davis, President of the Board of Trustees. “This plan will enable us to achieve these goals in a sustainable way.”

Faced with Hartford’s fiscal challenges, the Library has been experiencing a downward trend in the City’s coverage of its operating expenses, and significant revenue growth will be challenging moving forward. “Each community’s needs were looked at in the context of its ecosystem of current services provided,” says Andrea Comer, HPL board member and Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. “The restructuring will keep the Downtown Library, the Albany, Park, Dwight, Barbour, Camp Field, and Ropkins branches open. The Goodwin and Blue Hills branches will be closing and their staff and collections will be redeployed across the system. There are no staff layoffs with this plan.” The Mark Twain Branch, co-located in the West Middle Community School, will remain a library for the school to use; the current collection will stay on site, and the Library will offer programs for adults.”

“This plan will provide service enhancement opportunities that will mean more hours, more days of service and additional programming in the branches, as well as enhanced mobile services,” says Bridget Quinn-Carey, HPL’s CEO. “This plan is

about expanding services and gaining long-term sustainability for one of Hartford's most valued institutions.”

**Don Wilson**

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