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On behalf of the over 850 members of the Massachusetts Library Association we would like to make the following statement in support of the Board of Trustees of the Everett Public Libraries.

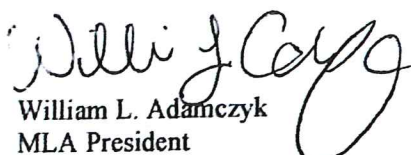
The Massachusetts Library Association unequivocally believes that libraries are best served when overseen by a library board of trustees. We agree with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners that having a library board of trustees is fundamental to the development of strong public libraries in Massachusetts. Board members are the vital link between the library and the community. Trustees are library advocates and leaders in developing service willingly, responsibly, and creatively for all members of the public. Public library boards of trustees represent a broad spectrum of the community assuring that libraries provide free and openly accessible services to all.


The proposal before the Everett City Council to eliminate the Everett Public Libraries' board of trustees as currently constituted will have an immediate and long term, damaging impact on library management and the delivery of library services to the people of Everett. It is the firm position of the Massachusetts Library Association that only boards of trustees are capable of:

- Serving as advocates for the library in the budgetary process at the local, state and federal levels
- Ensuring that library materials are available, accessible and free from censorship
- Committing to maintaining the freedom to read to all while safeguarding an individual's privacy
- Overseeing policies and rules of use that are fair and open to all
- Hiring and managing library directors based on merit, skills, and qualifications
- Following the provisions of the receipt of and use of endowments, gifts and trusts to the intentions of donors
- Strengthening of the statewide network of public libraries for the citizens of Everett by participating in the MBLC's library certification program

We urge the Everett City Council to reject the proposed ordinance changes that would eliminate the Everett Public Library Board of Trustees, and in effect irreparably damage library services to the community.

Sincerely,


William L. Adamczyk
MLA President
Milton Public Library, Director


Esme Green
MLA Vice President
Goodnow Library (Sudbury), Director