



July 16, 2020

Ms. Janet Rabbit
President and Controller
Library Board of Trustees
Woburn Public Library

Dear Ms. Rabbit,

The Massachusetts Library Association condemns the action that the City of Woburn has taken to layoff over 90% of their public library's staff without applying similar cuts to other Departments within the City.

The mission of the Massachusetts Library Association is to ensure that every person in the Commonwealth has reasonable access to library resources and services of the widest scope and highest quality through academic, special, institutional, public, school and other library and media centers. These resources and services can only be curated and delivered by workers who are trained and specialize in library work.

A library that operates without workers who specialize in the delivery of library services to the public is not operating in service to their community.

There is significant work that trained library workers can accomplish remotely during a pandemic, including:

- Virtual programming
- Information literacy instruction
- Telephone outreach to members of the community
- Remote technology support

As libraries begin to restart some services for the public during Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the Governor's Reopening Plan, library staff are able to offer other important services such as:

- Curbside order fulfillment for library materials
- Personalized selection of library materials for order fulfillment
- Curbside faxing and photocopying service

The Massachusetts Library Association calls upon the Mayor of Woburn, the Director of the Public Library and the Library Board of Trustees to put their dedicated, passionate and resourceful staff back to work immediately and allow the community of Woburn to receive the essential library services that they deserve.

Nora Blake
President, Massachusetts Library Association

Cc: Mayor Scott Galvin
Bonnie Roalsen, Library Director
Massachusetts Library Association Membership