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For Immediate Release

A Learning Strategy: Former Fire Chief Motivates Adult Learners To Succeed at Hartford Public Library In 8-Week Course Starting Oct. 24

Oct. 3, 2016 — Retired Hartford Fire Chief Charles A. Teale Sr. is on a mission to teach Hartford adults his motivational tools for learning. Hartford Public Library will offer this new program series, “Chief



Teale’s The Tools of Learning,” two nights a week for eight weeks in the Hartford History Center on the 3rd floor of the Downtown Library, 500 Main Street, beginning Monday, Oct. 24.

This series is free to both beginner and advanced readers ages 18 and older but registration is required by calling 860-695-6320. Participants must commit to attending Monday and Wednesday evening classes from 6 to 6:45 p.m. for the 8-week period. Classes will focus on reading, writing and algebra learning strategies and are progressive in nature. The retired fire chief will also provide one-on-one tutorials for registered participants during the 8-week session.

Chief Teale knows what it’s like to have trouble in school. “I dropped out of Weaver High School when I was 14 years old,” says Teale, who served for 28 years as a member of the Hartford Fire Department, the last 10 as chief until he

retired in 2010.

He worked hard for his success. “At 17, I met with Walter “Doc” Hurley who became a mentor. He made me aware of the importance of persistence, getting an education, and being of service,” says Teale, who later wrote a biography of Hurley, a beloved educator and sports coach in Hartford. Teale had the desire to learn, but not the skills. He passed the GED test on his second try and enrolled in a local community college. He couldn’t keep up his grade point average and left. He tried Manchester Community College.

He failed again.

After watching fire fighters at work, he was inspired to join the force. But he knew he needed help to be a better student. “One of the first places I went was the Hartford Public Library,” he says, so he could study the history of the department. He talked to family friend Michael Booker, a fire fighter who sent

him to talk with Cynthia Jennings , who ran Plan B Incorporated, a test preparation service. “I took her course four times,” Teale says. He then took the test for fire fighters and came out No. 7 in a field of 2000.

During training he met Eddie Lopez, another recruit, who taught Teale methods of “remembering” he picked up in the military that emphasized reading for comprehension. “You should never teach anyone anything unless you have taught them how to learn, how to understand, and how to remember that information,” says Teale, who now holds three college degrees (an Associates in Fire Technology, a Bachelor’s in Human Services and a Master’s in Public Administration) and became a State of Connecticut certified educator earlier this year.

Teale will base his classes on his book, *Chief Teale's The Tools of Learning: From GED to Masters Degree and Beyond*. It tells his life story and includes a course workbook. The workbook will be provided to participating students for free.

“We are delighted to provide Chief Teale a home here at Hartford Public Library. We know how challenging it can be to learn something new, especially for the adult learner,” says Bridget Quinn-Carey, Hartford Public Library CEO. “It can be a hard first step to make. But Chief Teale’s own story is so inspiring and his presentation style so motivational, he is the ideal person to connect people through his program to new learning and career opportunities, including the full range of Library programs and services we offer at HPL.”

Sign up for Chief Teale’s Tools of Learning by contacting Kenyon Grant at kgrant@hplct.org or 860-695-6320. The class dates are: Oct 24, 26, 31; Nov. 2, 7,9,14, 21, 28, 30; and Dec. 5, 7, 12, 14

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