

CEO of Hartford Public Library Elected to National Post

HARTFORD, CT (June 29, 2011) — Hartford Public Library announced today that its chief executive officer, Matthew K. Poland, was elected to the executive board of the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) at their annual conference in New Orleans. The sixteen-member board includes library executives, government leaders, library trustees, and members-at-large from cities and library systems throughout North America. ULC is currently leading two important initiatives for public libraries, Public Access Technology Benchmarks with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Youth Learning Labs in Libraries with the Institute for Library and Museum Services and the MacArthur Foundation.

Of his appointment, Poland said: "ULC is a cutting edge organization focused on important issues facing urban libraries everywhere. I am honored to represent our Library on the national stage and I look forward to helping shape the essential role that urban libraries will play in our cities in the 21st century."

Hartford Mayor Pedro E. Segarra congratulated Mr. Poland on this accomplishment. "Matt's election to this prestigious board gives Hartford yet another opportunity to have a much-needed voice on the national stage. Our library system plays an essential role in education, access to information and technology, and inspiration through history and culture for our residents and families. His leadership with the ULC is part of the collaborative strength we as a city bring to issues of national prominence." Earlier this month, Mayor Segarra was elected to the Advisory Board of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Hartford Public Library, which has been a member of ULC for more than ten years, received a Top Innovator Award from the organization in 2010.

About Urban Libraries Council:

Since 1971 the Urban Libraries Council has worked to strengthen public libraries as an essential part of urban life. A member organization of North America's leading public library systems, ULC serves as a forum for research widely recognized and used by public and private sector leaders. Its members are thought leaders dedicated to leadership, innovation and the continuous transformation of libraries to meet community needs.

As ULC celebrates its forty-year anniversary, its work focuses on assisting public libraries to identify and utilize skills and strategies that match the challenges of the 21st century. www.urbanlibraries.org

About Hartford Public Library:

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information

and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. www.hplct.org