



Proclamation Honoring Lois W. Jones

WHEREAS, Lois W. Jones began her career on July 1, 1989 as a part-time reference librarian for Harrisonburg for what was then called the Rockingham Library Association, now known as the Massanutten Regional Library (MRL), and became the Library Director in 2010; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as Director, Lois has overseen a robust library system made up of seven separate branches, which serves a population of 160,000. She has seen the library system go from typed card catalog, and paper check-out systems, to fully electronic service, including downloadable media and resources. She has nimbly and eagerly embraced every technological advancement for MRL; and

WHEREAS, because of MRL's regional service area, Lois worked hard to become familiar with the patrons and community leaders of Harrisonburg, Bridgewater, Broadway, Elkton, Grottoes, Luray, Shenandoah and also Bergton and Stanley (two former MRL branches). Lois advocated for branches, to ensure that they reflected and served the unique needs of each community and regularly attended City, Town, County, and volunteer meetings to advocate and champion for the individual needs; and

WHEREAS, Lois is a passionate advocate for patrons and for ensuring the freedom of information and equal access to information that the Library Bill of Rights requires; she meets people at the level they are at with understanding and empathy which is unparalleled and often unseen in society today; and

WHEREAS, Lois has worked with over 12 separate Board of Trustees during her tenure as Library Director and previously as Assistant Director. She adeptly handled MRL finances and governance, and personally trained and welcomed every Board member to ensure that MRL's mission, vision, and values were at the core of their service time.; and

WHEREAS, Lois is held in high esteem by the American Library Association, the Library of Virginia, and particularly with the Virginia Library Association for her years of service and expertise, as well as her leadership and mentorship in the Mountain Six region of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, some notable capital projects during Lois' tenure include the expansion of the Village Library in Broadway and the opening of the Community Youth Center (CYC) at the Central Library in Harrisonburg; and .

WHEREAS, Lois gracefully and expertly lobbied, networked, and advocated for MRL and the importance of public libraries on a local, state, and national level; and

WHEREAS, Lois humbly exemplified what servant-leadership is about. Lois' imprint can be felt at every branch and in every region which she so humbly and aptly served.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Deanna R. Reed, mayor, of the city of Harrisonburg, do hereby honor and applaud Lois W. Jones for her accomplishments, determination and dedication to her community which will always be remembered in the city of Harrisonburg, Virginia.

GIVEN under my hand this 24 day of August, 2021.

ATTEST:


Pamela S. Ulmer, City Clerk

BY:


Deanna R. Reed, Mayor