



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2012

CONTACT:

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

press@cityofchicago.org

MAYOR EMANUEL NOMINATES BRIAN BANNON FOR LIBRARY COMMISSIONER

Linda Johnson Rice and Lynn Lockwood Appointed to Library Board of Directors

CHICAGO – Mayor Rahm Emanuel today announced his nomination of Brian Bannon for Library Commissioner, replacing Mary Dempsey, who has stepped down after nearly 18 years as Commissioner. The Mayor also announced two appointments to the Library Board of Directors: Linda Johnson Rice, whom he is recommending for president, and Lynn Lockwood.

“Brian Bannon has the experience and vision to lead the Chicago Public Library and guide its expansion in the digital world,” said Mayor Emanuel. “It is more important than ever that our libraries provide children, students and families with resources to learn and grow. With his expertise in digital technology, Brian will expand the online resources of the Chicago Public Library and broaden the horizons of those who rely on it.”

Bannon is currently the Chief Information Officer at the San Francisco Public Library, where he is responsible for its digital strategy, information technology, web media, and online services. Bannon also served as Chief of Branches and managed the staff and operations for San Francisco's neighborhood libraries and had a central role in implementing the \$200 million branch library improvement program.

“This is a tremendous opportunity to expand the library, engage new users and build new services beyond the four walls,” said Bannon. “The Chicago Public Library is already a national leader in educational media for teens and I look forward to working with the Library staff to build on that great foundation.”

Mayor Rahm Emanuel also announced the nominations of Linda Johnson Rice and Lynn Lockwood to the Board of Directors.

Linda Johnson Rice is President and CEO of Johnson Publishing Company (JPC). Headquartered in Downtown Chicago, JPC is the publisher of preeminent African-American magazines such as JET and Ebony. A graduate of Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Linda has won numerous awards and honors, including being named one of Chicago's 100 Most Powerful Women and one of the Top 10 Women in Media by the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Under her leadership, JPC's corporate mission focuses on education, financial literacy, and AIDS prevention.

"This is the first time that a major publisher has been named to the Board of The Chicago Public Library, bringing together these two important sectors," said Mayor Emanuel. "As a publisher, Linda knows the importance of innovation to keep pace with today's changing media landscape. She will bring Chicago's libraries into the digital future as she has done with Johnson Publishing. Linda Johnson Rice and her family have helped to build the Chicago that we know today and I cannot think of anyone better to help build the future of the Chicago Public Library."

Lynn Lockwood has over 25 years of professional experience in the creative, non-profit, and political fields, Lynn will bring her dedication to the city's cultural and intellectual life to her work on the Board of the Chicago Public Library. For over 8 years she worked with the Department of Cultural Affairs, creating programs and helping manage the Chicago Cultural Center and the nationally recognized After School Matters program.

"Lynn has a long history enriching the cultural life of Chicago, including the children of our great city," said the Mayor. "She will be able to draw on her experience as a founding Board member of Chicago Children's Theater and as a member of the Board of Trustees for Steppenwolf Theater Company.

Johnson Rice and Lockwood will replace Jayne Carr Thompson and Judy Rice.

Dempsey is stepping down plans to continue her work as the President of the Philip H. Corboy Foundation as well as working with the DePaul University Board of Trustees. Under her leadership, the Library embraced technology, launched a capital campaign which resulted in an unprecedented expansion of branch libraries and started the award-winning One Book, One Chicago citywide book club.

###



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

Quotes about Brian Bannon:

I am delighted that Brian Bannon has been selected by Mayor Emanuel to lead the Chicago Public Library. Brian has been a remarkable asset to the San Francisco Public Library, both as Chief of Branches, where he helped lead the largest capital improvement program in the Library's history, as well as in his current role as Chief Information Officer, where he spear-headed our digital and technology initiatives. Indeed, San Francisco's loss is a big gain for The Chicago Public Library.

--Luis Herrera, City Librarian of The San Francisco Public Library

Brian is just the right choice to build on the extraordinary legacy of Commissioner Mary Dempsey. He is a next generation leader with a deep understanding of the value of libraries; the tech savvy to keep the library on the cutting edge in a new, more connected age, and the business experience to run the system in tight financial times. The MacArthur Foundation is excited to continue and expand its partnership with the Chicago Public Library under his leadership

-- Julia Stasch, Vice President of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

I have worked with Brian for more than ten years and he has always had a strong vision for the future of libraries. He is one of the most creative and innovative leaders in our field, and when I created a 12-member international strategic advisory network to help guide our Global Libraries Initiative, he was one of the first people I asked to join.

-- Deborah Jacobs, Director of Global Libraries Initiative, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.