

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 186 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY SIMS, O'BRIEN, BISHOP, V. BROWN, McNEILL,  
DiGIROLAMO, HENNESSEY, THOMAS, ROZZI, COHEN, C. PARKER,  
DAVIS, READSHAW, PASHINSKI, KIM, HARHAI, DONATUCCI, O'NEILL,  
McGINNIS, VEREB, CALTAGIRONE, KINSEY, DRISCOLL, BROWNLEE,  
GRELL, MILLARD, YOUNGBLOOD, ROEBUCK, SCHWEYER, FARINA,  
D. COSTA, WATSON, GIBBONS AND SABATINA, MARCH 24, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MARCH 24, 2015

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Ms. Siobhan Reardon, President and Director of the Free  
2 Library of Philadelphia, for being named Librarian of the  
3 Year for 2015 by the *Library Journal*.

4 WHEREAS, The *Library Journal* has named Ms. Siobhan Reardon,  
5 President and Director of the Free Library of Philadelphia, as  
6 Librarian of the Year for 2015; and

7 WHEREAS, This award is presented annually to a library  
8 professional in North America who is transforming his or her  
9 library, community and the profession; and

10 WHEREAS, Ms. Reardon was chosen as the recipient of this  
11 award in recognition of her vision and strategic plan, which  
12 transformed a traditional library system facing budget and  
13 staffing reductions into an innovative, vibrant community  
14 center; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2008, Ms. Reardon became the first woman to serve  
16 as the President and Director of the Free Library of

1 Philadelphia; and

2 WHEREAS, Upon accepting her new duties, with the Free Library  
3 of Philadelphia initially facing budget cuts due to the economic  
4 recession, Ms. Reardon successfully stewarded this great  
5 institution through two and one-half years of difficult and  
6 challenging times of drastically reduced branch hours; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2010, as library funding began to gradually  
8 increase, the Free Library of Philadelphia launched a two-year  
9 process to construct a new strategic plan for the library's 61  
10 locations; and

11 WHEREAS, Ms. Reardon's vision was to streamline and enhance  
12 neighborhood library services by actively reaching out to the  
13 community to identify needs, which was reflected in her five-  
14 year strategic plan to refocus the library on job seekers,  
15 entrepreneurs, new Americans, children under five and people  
16 with disabilities; and

17 WHEREAS, Ms. Reardon restructured the 800-member staff of the  
18 library as she created new positions that did not exist before,  
19 while also seeking to improve efficiencies, internal  
20 communications and the quality of the library experience for  
21 patrons; and

22 WHEREAS, Ms. Reardon is passionate in seeking to advance  
23 literacy, guide learning and inspire curiosity and is a dynamic,  
24 capable leader recognized for her creative, transformative ideas  
25 and dedication to engaging and serving the community; therefore  
26 be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor Ms. Siobhan  
28 Reardon, President and Director of the Free Library of  
29 Philadelphia, for being named Librarian of the Year for 2015 by  
30 the *Library Journal*; and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
2   Ms. Siobhan Reardon at the following address: Free Library of  
3   Philadelphia, 1901 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1189.