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JAMES DAVIS, *MAYOR*

October 10, 2023

For immediate release:

Bayonne Library Board Appoints Melody Scagnelli-Townley as New Library Director

The Board of Trustees of the Bayonne Public Library is excited to announce the appointment of Melody Scagnelli-Townley as Director of the Bayonne Public Library, effective immediately. Scagnelli-Townley served as Interim Director since March 1, 2023. The Board voted unanimously at its October 3, 2023, meeting to promote her to the position on an ongoing basis.

Board President Maribeth Doria said that the Trustees expressed that Melody “exceeded expectations in the time, effort, skills and abilities she has committed to learning what is necessary to perform her job duties and to manage the Library, including all aspects of the Library construction project, and numerous other accomplishments, and has demonstrated she has the qualifications and abilities to serve as Library Director.”

Scagnelli-Townley previously served as Bayonne Public Library’s Outreach Librarian from 2019 until February 2023, and began her stint as the Interim Director just as the large renovation project began on the Library’s historic main branch building on Ave C and 31st Street. Prior to coming to Bayonne Public Library, Scagnelli-Townley worked in the Bergen County Cooperative Library System (BCCLS), the Mahwah school district, and the Woodbridge school district. Scagnelli-Townley earned her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees with high honors from Rutgers University and holds a New Jersey State Professional Librarian Certificate and a Certificate of Eligibility as a school library media specialist. Scagnelli-Townley was named an American Library Association Emerging Leader in 2017 and recently finished a term on the 2022 Alex Award Selection Committee. The Alex Award is a national award given annually to ten books written for adults that have special appeal to young adults, ages 12 through 18.

Scagnelli-Townley lives in Bayonne with her husband and three-year-old daughter.

While she previously guided the Library through the eContent transition from Axis 360 to Hoopla and negotiated with Ancestry to secure a digitization contract for the Library's archives of historic newspapers, Scagnelli-Townley says, "I look forward to even greater opportunities for the Library to grow! The completion of renovations is just the first step in the rejuvenation plan for our wonderful Carnegie Library. Exciting things are coming! Please watch for our grand reopening and come experience all the Bayonne Public Library has to offer."