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MAYOR LANDRIEU ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF CHARLES BROWN AS LIBRARY DIRECTOR

NEW ORLEANS, LA — Today, Mayor Mitch Landrieu and Lee Reid, President of the New Orleans Public Library Board of Directors, announced that Charles Brown has been hired as Executive Director of the New Orleans Public Library (NOPL). Brown will oversee the library system's daily operations, which will add five new branch locations in 2012.

A nationally recognized library director, Brown's appointment is effective on November 21, 2011. Brown most recently served as Director of Libraries for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library in Charlotte, North Carolina since 2004. The New Orleans Public Library has an \$8 million budget, 150 employees and 14 facilities. Brown will report to the nine-member NOPL Board of Directors who are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by members of the New Orleans City Council.

"As the New Orleans Public Library system looks ahead to building a 21st century operation, Charles will use his extensive experience from leading some of the nation's most respected and progressive public libraries to elevate our library system to a leading position among our peer cities," said Mayor Mitch Landrieu. "We are seeing tremendous progress on our library facilities, and at least five new libraries will open within the next year."

"New Orleans is fortunate to have Charles join our team. His expertise and ability to forge strong relationships with key stakeholders will help us foster an innovative culture that will better serve our entire community," said Lee Reid, President of the New Orleans Public Library Board.

“I look forward to joining Mayor Landrieu and the New Orleans Public Library Board in their efforts to rebuild the New Orleans Public Library system and to fulfill the vision of creating a library system that will become a model center of learning in this community,” Brown stated.

Brown holds a Master of Science degree in Library Science from Columbia University. He also graduated from the John F. Kennedy School of Government Executive Education Program at Harvard University. Prior to Charlotte, Brown also served as Director of Libraries in Hennepin County, Minnesota, and Arlington County, Virginia.

Additionally, Brown was Director of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library when it received a National Medal for Library Service from First Lady Laura Bush at a special White House ceremony in 2007. A member of the American Library Association, Brown is a former member of the 61,000-member organization’s 13-member Executive Board and a past president of the Public Library Association, a division of the American Library Association.

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