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April 21, 2026

Terry Kirchner, Director
Westchester Library System
570 Taxter Road, Suite 400
Elmsford, NY 10523

Mr. Kirchner:

I write in response to information provided to the State Education Department regarding the Board of Trustees of the Mount Vernon Public Library (“board”).

Several members of the public have indicated that the board has adopted by-laws limiting members to two terms of office. I am further informed that trustee Hope Marable, removed from office by the Board of Regents in February 2023, has suggested that this by-law is inapplicable to her as she did not “serve” her first term due to her removal from the Board of Regents prior to the expiration thereof.¹

It is the opinion of the Board of Regents and the Department that Ms. Marable served the entirety of the term in which she was removed. To hold otherwise would reward a trustee who was found to have neglected her duty and failed to carry out the educational purposes of the institution.

Please apprise the board of this determination. Further questions may be directed to the Department’s Division of Library Development.

Sincerely,

/s/ Daniel Morton-Bentley
Counsel & Deputy Commissioner

¹ <https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/223bra5.pdf>.