



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **LIBRARY SYSTEM ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTOR**

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System Board Chair Kimberly Johnson has announced that John Spears of Colorado Springs, Colorado has been appointed to the position of director of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System. The Chicago native is currently chief librarian and chief executive officer of the Pikes Peak Library District, a position he has held since 2016.

In announcing his appointment, Johnson said, "After a national search, we have found the right fit for our libraries. John Spears brings more than 25 years of experience working in urban, suburban and rural libraries in Colorado, Missouri, Illinois and Utah. John has also been a leader in library operations, strategic planning and development of equity, diversity and inclusion practices."

"It is a tremendous honor to become the new director of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System, especially at this time," said John Spears. "When I visited the region, I saw communities full of vitality, communities that share the values that are important to me and communities that respect their past while forging ahead to a new and exciting future. Public libraries play a tremendous role in building and growing communities, and being involved in that in Buffalo is an opportunity I look forward to being a part of."

John Spears holds a Master of Science in Library and Information Science and Bachelor of Arts in Music History from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is a published writer, having written several articles for *Public Libraries* magazine. Spears has been a panelist and presenter for the American Library Association, International Federation of Library Associations and the National Conference on Ending Homelessness, among others. He is also past president of the Library Leadership and Management Association.

Spears will begin his new post on April 11, 2022. He replaces Library Director Mary Jean Jakubowski, who retired in June 2021 after nearly thirty years with the Buffalo & Erie

County Public Library System. Chief Operating Officer Jeannine Doyle has been serving as the interim director.

**About the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System**

In 2021, despite the challenges brought on for the second year by the COVID-19 pandemic, Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries, representing 37 libraries and the *Library on Wheels* bookmobile, circulated over 5.17 million materials, including over 1 million eBooks and eAudiobooks. There were 7.38 million website visits and more than 1.56 million onsite library visits. The Library System holds more than 3 million materials that are available for borrowing, including books, eBooks, magazines, DVDs, CDs and more.

There are currently more than 400,000 Buffalo & Erie County Public Library cardholders. All Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries are open to the public, some seven days a week. Programming highlights include onsite and virtual events celebrating Black History Month, Women’s History Month and Indie Author Day, as well as health and wellness, career and financial literacy fairs; technology and genealogy classes; family programs and more.

Traditional and online library card applications are available in libraries and on the System’s website at [www.BuffaloLib.org/library-cards](http://www.BuffaloLib.org/library-cards). For more information about library hours, programs, downloadable materials, databases and more, call 716-858-8900 or visit [www.BuffaloLib.org](http://www.BuffaloLib.org).



***Newly appointed  
Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Director  
John Spears***

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Interviews available by request. Contact Joy @ 716-858-7182