**First Lady of the Commonwealth Lauren Baker and Bruins Mascot Blades Challenge Massachusetts Residents to Read this Summer**

(Library Name) is excited to participate in the 3rd Annual First Lady and Blades Summer Reading Challenge. Libraries throughout the Commonwealth will work with their communities towards their own goal and will be entered into a drawing for Bruins prizes.

“Summer reading is so important. It is a fun way for our community to engage in reading and keep learning” said (librarian name). “We are excited to work together this summer towards our goal.”

 (library name)’s goal is (XXX) which will be tracked from July 1 to August 16. Kids, teens, and adults that are all invited to participate in summer reading and help hit the goal. When the goal is met by the community, the library is entered into a drawing for Bruins prizes which include signed Bruins memorabilia such as hockey sticks and pucks.

Given the impact of COVID, summer reading is more important than ever for students to build their skills and increase their knowledge through reading and other events. Studies have shown that children who read just four books over the summer do better when returning to school in the fall than children who read one book or less. Last summer kids read more than 5 million minutes as part of the challenge.

The challenge is a collaboration between the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), the First Lady of the Commonwealth Lauren Baker, and the Boston Bruins. Over four million children teens and adults have participated in Statewide Summer Library programming since 2009. The Statewide Summer Library program is made possible with support from the Boston Bruins, the Massachusetts Library System and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners with Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.