Be it hereby Resolved by the Board of Directors of the Bridgeport Public Library and Reading Room to recognize and celebrate the life and accomplishments of our Director Emerita Helen Werner Liskov that:

WHEREAS, Helen Werner Liskov was born in Mount Vernon, New York, and settled in Bridgeport, Connecticut, with her parents where she began her passion for life-long learning in the Bridgeport public schools; and

WHEREAS, Helen Werner Liskov was determined to realize her dream of obtaining a college degree upon her graduation from high school by first working as a secretary at the newly established Junior College of Connecticut (now the University of Bridgeport) – the first junior college chartered in the Northeast – which enabled her to enroll as a student in its first graduating class of 1929; and

WHEREAS, Helen Werner Liskov advanced her formal education also obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree from New York University and a Master’s degree from the University of Bridgeport that provided a foundation for her long and distinguished career as a teacher and guidance counselor who worked diligently in the community as a passionate advocate for women's rights and as a champion of all issues involving education and children's welfare; and

WHEREAS, the minutes of this Board for June 18, 1969 reflect that “the name of Mrs. Samuel Liskov was placed in nomination for election as a director and trustee to fill the unexpired portion of the term of Director Wolfe . . .” and that Helen Werner Liskov, born in an age when women had not yet secured the right to vote, was elected unanimously as the first woman to serve as a director and trustee in the 88 year history of the Bridgeport Public Library and began her dedicated service four days before humans first landed on the moon with the comment in the minutes of July 16, 1969 that: “Mrs. Liskov then received words of welcome and congratulations from those present, including gallant remarks from the formerly all male Board about the charm and wisdom of having a woman aboard at last!”; and

WHEREAS, after a decade of distinguished and dedicated service, Helen Werner Liskov was the first woman elected President of the Board of Directors of the Bridgeport Public Library and Reading Room on June 18, 1979, ten years to the day she was elected to this Board; and

WHEREAS, Helen Werner Liskov served as President of this Board for the next three years, presiding over the celebration of the centennial of the Bridgeport Public Library, and was recognized by her peers, in the words of the minutes of June 17, 1982, for “her leadership qualities as President and her dedication, her expenditure of personal time in pursuit of her duties” prompting her to comment, with insight into her motivations, on the “importance of the Library in the community, how it added much to the quality of life and to educational opportunities. ‘Much more must be done’, she said, ‘to open our library buildings more hours a week, particularly on Sundays, if library resources were to be utilized fully’. She noted two newspaper articles praising the Library and one in which citizens randomly interviewed would support higher taxes for better library service.”; and

WHEREAS, Helen Werner Liskov continued to serve on this Board for many more years, until she became one of the first Directors Emeriti and as such still continued to attend meetings of this Board, always as a devoted advocate for children’s programming and youth services, often with her beloved husband, the Hon. Samuel Liskov, former Representative of the 135th State Assembly District;

NOW, THEREFORE, to acknowledge her passing on May 26, 2016 at the age of 104, with deepest sympathy to her family and with sincere appreciation and gratitude for her decades of exemplary service to this Library, the City of Bridgeport and its people, especially its children for whom she worked tirelessly to promote literacy, provide educational opportunities and an appreciation for the pursuit of life-long learning, we, The Board of Directors of the Bridgeport Public Library and Reading Room hereby recognize and honor her pioneering accomplishments and her many and varied contributions to our community and further hereby name and dedicate the children’s services of the Bridgeport Public Library and Reading Room as the “Helen Werner Liskov Library for Children” and direct that a suitable plaque in her memory be prominently displayed in the Children’s Room of the Burroughs-Saden Library to commemorate its dedication as set forth in this Resolution, which shall be spread upon the Minutes of this Board and published accordingly.

Dated at Bridgeport, Connecticut this 20th day of July, 2016.

The Board of Directors of the Bridgeport Public Library and Reading Room: