



The Voice of the Library Community

New York Library Association

6021 State Farm Road, Guilderland, NY 12084
518-432-6952 / 518-427-1697 FAX
info@nyla.org
www.nyla.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jeremy Johannesen, Executive Director / director@nyla.org
Phone: (518) 432-6952 x101

Statement from New York Library Association On Deadly Stabbing at Finkelstein Memorial Library

ALBANY, NY – On Tuesday, February 18, 2020 library security guard Sandra Wilson was fatally stabbed while on duty at the Finkelstein Memorial Library in Spring Valley, NY.

The New York Library Association condemns this senseless act of violence and expresses the condolences of the library community to the family and friends of Sandra Wilson, and to the staff and patrons of the Finkelstein Memorial Library.

NYLA President Dr. Jennifer Cannell offered; "This tragedy reminds us of the sanctity of the public library, and the challenges of guaranteeing the safety of everyone who frequents them." She continued "It is imperative that libraries remain as safe spaces where all are welcome, and the library staff can fulfill their duties free from concerns for their wellbeing."

"Ensuring a safe space is precisely why many libraries employ security guards like Sandra Wilson," said Jeremy Johannesen, executive director of New York Library Association. "Without a sense of security in the physical space of the library, patrons wouldn't be able to truly avail themselves of the resources and services that the library provides."

NYLA is making a donation to the Finkelstein Memorial Library to be used as they see fit in honor of the memory of Sandra Wilson. Together the library community can learn and heal from this rare and exceptional tragedy and, with the ongoing commitment of the dedicated staff, return to advancing the mission of every library; providing open and equitable access to information to all.

About NYLA:

The New York Library Association (NYLA) is the voice of the library community in New York. NYLA is the oldest state library association in the country and represents school, college, special and public libraries, library staff, trustees, and students from around the state.

NYLA is the only statewide organization dedicated to advocating on behalf of all libraries and library staff in Albany and serves as the spokesperson on library matters to the media and public policymakers.

For more information contact:

Jeremy Johannesen
director@nyla.org
518-432-6952 Ext 101
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