

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COMMISSIONER MARILYN BROWN TO DONATE BOOKS, PRESENT WORKSHOP, TO EMPOWER WOMEN

Franklin County Commissioner Marilyn Brown will appear at two events designed to empower local women and girls on September 24, 2013.

Brown was chosen to author a chapter in the recently-released book *Women on Fire, Volume 2*. Internationally acclaimed and *New York Times* best-selling author Marianne Williamson calls *Women on Fire* “the ultimate ‘you go, girl’ community for inspiration and support to manifest your own inner light.” Book editor Debbie Phillips will join Brown at both events.

Women on Fire, Volume 2 is the much-anticipated successor to 2009’s *Women on Fire*. Each book consists of first-person inspirational stories of triumph over challenges. Brown’s chapter is entitled “What’s Important Now” and tells the story of her own journey as a wife, mother, grandmother, elected official, and caregiver.

“I hadn’t told my entire story before,” Brown says, “and I was compelled to finally tell it. I realized that I had gone through so much during the past few years, and that going through difficult times and family challenges really helped me to keep forefront in my mind that focusing on a limited number of important things is far more gratifying than attempting to be everywhere doing everything all the time.” The following excerpt highlights this realization.

“I am different in many ways than a few years ago. I am so much more engaged and focused on my work because of what I experienced the past few years. My daughter Daryn has made me a better person. She and what she has been through made me see what is important in my work. I am far less patient with people that seem to have problems staying on track. I am motivated to improve the lives of people who want help and who are willing to work and be held accountable for their actions.”

I am more protective of my time and more selective of how I spend it while doing my County Commissioner work. Each day, I could choose from many meetings, events, and other kinds of activities. I choose not to spend my days doing things that feel insincere, frivolous, or just for show. I’m not a ribbon-cutting kind of gal; I would rather tour the new entity and meet the clients, whether a television camera is present or not.”

The first event will be at the Main Library branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library, 96 S Grant Ave, at 12:30pm. At this event, Brown will donate 21 copies of *Women on Fire, Volume 2* signed by both Brown and Phillips. One copy of the book will be placed at each branch of the CML system.

“I want to personally make sure that no woman or girl in Franklin County is further away than her neighborhood library from having access to the triumphant stories of these amazing women,” Brown says.

“At Columbus Metropolitan Library, we take great pride in being a vital asset to the education and empowerment of future leaders in our communities,” says Alison Circle, CML Chief Customer Experience Officer. “We are thrilled to be a part of Commissioner Brown’s work in ensuring women have books and other resources available to propel them from the classroom to the board room.”

The second event will be at Dress for Success Columbus, 1204 N High St, at 2pm and will feature Brown and Phillips hosting an interactive Q&A workshop for women enrolled in the Dress for Success programs. These programs are free of charge to women in need, referred by non-profit community partners, and include professional attire, networking, and career development tools.

“We are incredibly grateful to host Commissioner Marilyn Brown and Debbie Phillips for a special discussion with the ladies we empower,” says Vicki Bowen Hughes, CEO of Dress for Success Columbus. “The opportunity is especially meaningful for our clients; the women we serve encounter daunting barriers as they strive to begin anew. This wonderful experience will absolutely bolster their confidence and strengthen their courage as they continue their journey, building successful lives for themselves and their children.”

At this event, Brown will present each woman in attendance with a copy of *Women on Fire, Volume 2* signed by both Brown and Phillips.

Women on Fire, Volume 2 is available online at www.womenonfire.com. Limited complementary copies for non-profit organizations may be available from Commissioner Brown’s office. Contact Michael Daniels, aide to Marilyn Brown, at 614.525.3461 or michael.daniels@franklincountyohio.gov.

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