



### **Checkout Library Technology beginning August 10**

**Cambridge, MA, August 7, 2020** -- Cambridge Public Library will begin providing Chromebook Laptops for checkout through contactless holds pickup service on August 10, 2020. This service is in keeping with CPL's commitment to expand access to technology and other library resources during the COVID-19 health crisis.

“Too many people in our community lack access to computers and connectivity in a time when such access is required more urgently than ever,” said Reinhard Engels, Manager of Technology and Innovation for the Cambridge Public Library. “This is the first step in our Takeout Technology program. More Chromebooks and other devices, such as mobile hotspots for internet access, will be made available soon.”

When the program launches, patrons will be able to borrow technology for up to two weeks with a one-time renewal if there are no existing holds for that type of device. Items available for checkout include: four different models of Chromebooks, a charging cable, mouse and carrying case.

“The City is committed to addressing digital equity issues in Cambridge, and this new program is one example of how we are seeking to support residents during this ongoing pandemic,” said Louis A. DePasquale. “The Takeout Technology program builds on the City’s ongoing digital equity efforts, including our sponsorship program that will provide home internet connections to over 400 qualified Cambridge Public School families. I want to thank Cambridge Public Library staff for developing this important initiative.”

Patrons will be able to request technology by calling the Main Library at 617-349-4040, providing their library card number, selecting their preferred device model, and scheduling a pickup time. Technology can be returned in the Oversized Items bin during our Contactless Pickup service hours, Monday-Wednesday 1:30-7 p.m. and Thursday-Saturday 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Main Library, 449 Broadway.

“We know that many residents need access to technology for career development, job searches, family assistance and educational and recreational pursuits.” said Director of Libraries, Dr. Maria McCauley, “We are excited to launch checkout technology that will help residents.

Patrons who need help getting started, or some assistance with navigating the device may call 617-349-4040 or email library staff at [library@cambridgema.gov](mailto:library@cambridgema.gov) to set up a One-on-One

Tech Help session. The Chromebooks being distributed were made possible in part by a donation from Google.

**About the Cambridge Public Library:**

At the Cambridge Public Library, we welcome all, inspire minds and empower community. We support a Cambridge where everyone has equitable opportunities to learn, people live their best lives, and democracy thrives. During the Covid-19 health crisis, we are offering a variety of programs and services. [Visit our website](#) to learn the details.

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