CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG
LIBRARY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOIN IN COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS WITH AUTHORS JASON REYNOLDS, KIMBERLY JONES AND GILLY SEGAL
Library showcases featured Community Read 2021 authors in three free online events

Charlotte, NC – March 15, 2021 – Charlotte Mecklenburg Library is showcasing featured authors in three free online events for Community Read 2021, with a focus on creating community dialogue around themes of racism and social justice. The first event is March 17, 2021 at 10 a.m. with Jason Reynolds, author of *Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks*. Students from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools will have the opportunity to ask questions of Reynolds. The next two events are March 24 at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. with Kimberly Jones and Gilly Segal, co-authors of *I'm Not Dying with You Tonight,* and hosted by Genevieve Curtis of WSOC-TV. All Library programs have transitioned to online, and these author events consist of live discussions with Q&A available at the end. All events are free to the community, and information on how to sign up is located here.

Jason Reynolds' book *Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks* is a *New York Times* Best Children's Book of 2019, a Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book and a National Book Award Finalist*.* Kimberly Jones and Gilly Segal are authors of the signature title *I'm Not Dying with You*, a *New York Times* Bestseller and an NAACP Image Award nominee, and are currently in discussions for it to be made into a major motion picture. Recording of all events will be available for viewing afterwards on the Library's YouTube page here.

Community Read 2021 is the Library's month-long program to have the community read (or listen) to books of current and relevant topics. Throughout March, the Library is hosting readings, book discussions and other programs for participants that bring the books' themes to life. Adults and teens are encouraged to read and discuss the main title *I'm Not Dying with You Tonight* by Kimberly Jones and Gilly Segal, and the Library selected companion titles for all ages including: *You Matter* by Christian Robinson (children), *Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks* by Jason Reynolds (teens) and *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson (adults). More information and a full events schedule, along with a pledge to participate is at cmlibrary.org/community-read.

All books for Community Read 2021 are available through the Library's catalog in print, digital and audio formats. Community Read titles are also being distributed through Community Read partner organizations leading up to the events.

Community Read is presented with support from Wells Fargo, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation and Publix Super Markets Charities.

To learn more about Community Read, visit www.cmlibrary.org/communityread.

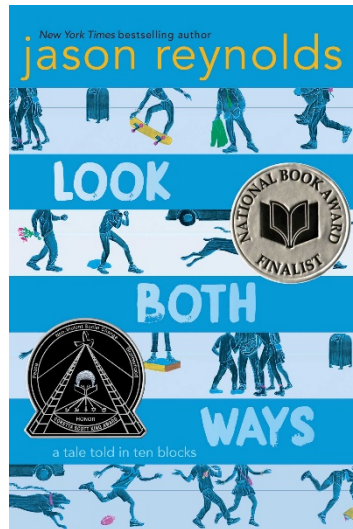**About Charlotte Mecklenburg Library:**
Charlotte Mecklenburg Library is one of America's leading urban public libraries, serving a community of more than one million citizens in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Through 20 locations, targeted outreach and online resources, the Library delivers exceptional services and programs, with a mission to improve lives and build a stronger community. For more, visit cmlibrary.org.

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Photo caption 1 and 2: Authors Gilly Segal and Kimberly Jones, authors of *I'm Not Dying with You Tonight*. Photo from appearance at Charlotte Mecklenburg Library EpicFest 2019.

Photo caption 3 and 4: Author Jason Reynolds and his book *Look Both Ways.*

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