

RESOLUTION NO. 20220901-086

WHEREAS, the City Council is committed to providing open access and allowing free inquiry at the Austin Public Library (APL); and

WHEREAS, the role of libraries is to collect and make available diverse works and information reflective of many perspectives and lived experiences; and

WHEREAS, including materials on a particular topic or expressing a particular opinion does not connote approval or advocacy of that topic or opinion; and

WHEREAS, book challenges have historically been used to attack the freedom to read a diversity of opinions; and

WHEREAS, the American Library Association (ALA) in response to a recent increase and intensity in book banning efforts nationwide issued a statement that the freedom to read is essential to our democracy; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Public Library has a “materials selection policy” process that is fair, deliberative, equitable, and accessible to the public; and

WHEREAS, at the January 24, 2022, Austin Library Commission meeting, APL Director Roosevelt Weeks presented a Statement on Book Banning and Library Censorship stating that the public has a “right to read” at the APL; and

WHEREAS, to build on the national momentum of the ALA “Freedom to Read” statement, APL joined local bookseller BookPeople to host “Banned Camp,” an ongoing series of events designed to promote the freedom to read and the free exchange of ideas; and


WHEREAS, the Austin Library Commission created a working group to support the principles expressed by APL and Director Weeks; **NOW**, **THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The Council supports the American Library Association’s “Freedom to Read” statement and opposes book banning.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Council supports the Austin Library Commission’s resolution regarding Austin Public Library’s materials selection policy. The Council also supports the Austin Public Library’s process for reconsideration and endorses its use for library materials that raise public concern.

ADOPTED: September 1, 2022 **ATTEST:** 
Myrna Rios
City Clerk