

28-Mar-2022 Status Report

Report to the Austin Public Library Commission by the Freedom to Read Working Group

WG participants include:

- Commissioner Courtney Rosenthal, chair
- Commissioner Eric Frierson
- Commissioner Lynda Infante
- Commissioner Steven Self
- Commissioner Mark Smith
- Frank Giammarino, APL Collections Department Manager

The WG met via video conference on March 9, and via online collaboration.

We have identified four goals for the working group:

- Draft a resolution of commission support for Freedom to Read and oppose book bannings
- Draft a recommendation of City Council action for same
- Remain on stand-by to offer rapid response support in the event of local book banning incidents
- Monitor status of local schools and other possible organizations, seeking ways to provide city support in the event of book banning incidents

We plan to present the two draft documents listed above for discussion and possible action at the March 28 commission meeting.

Next, the working group will continue, to:

- address any further direction from the Commission
- work to advance the Council recommendation, if approved
- monitor events in support of the final two goals listed above