

**RESOLUTION NO.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

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

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37 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

38 Myrna Rios  
39 City Clerk  
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Resources:

- [The Freedom to Read Statement | Advocacy, Legislation & Issues \(ala.org\)](#)
- [Library Commission recs to council Freedom to Read resolution 2022](#)
- [Library Commission Freedom to Read resolution 2022](#)
- [About Banned & Challenged Books | Advocacy, Legislation & Issues \(ala.org\)](#)