



## RESOLUTION

Resolution # 2024-18

Date: December 12, 2024

### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROTECTING LIBRARY MATERIALS, RESOURCES AND SERVICES

**WHEREAS**, the Bergenfield Public Library's provides an environment that supports free access to library resources and curates collections, programs and services that are inclusive and meet the needs and interests of all residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bergenfield Public Library is committed to protecting the rights of individuals of all ages to use the Library's materials, resources and services; and

**WHEREAS**, the freedom to read is protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, and individuals have the right to free inquiry and the equally important right to form their own opinions; and

**WHEREAS**, materials, resources and services may not align with the views and opinions of users on topics or themes, but allow users to explore and engage with differing perspectives to form and inform their own views; and

**WHEREAS**, including materials, resources and services on a topic or expressing an opinion does not connote approval or advocacy by the Bergenfield Public Library Staff and Trustees; and

**WHEREAS**, over the last several years, there has been a significant increase in censorship activities in libraries across the United States resulting in books being removed from library shelves and library programs being challenged; and

**WHEREAS**, censoring materials, resources and services from public libraries represents the erosion of our State's and Nation's commitment to freedom of expression and thereby harms diverse communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees has previously adopted policies for collection development and library programs for the community;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Bergenfield Public Library Board of Trustees, as follows:

1. Supports the freedom to read and opposes book banning, in accordance with Library policies and based upon the American Library Association's "Freedom to Read" statement.
2. Declares that the Bergenfield Public Library is place where people can borrow and read challenged books, and endangered books are accessible to everyone.
3. Supports its staff and the decisions they make in developing the collection and selecting programs to engage our diverse community.



**Roll Call:**

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mayor Arvin Amatorio				X
Fanny Cruz-Betesh	X			
Marcela Deauna	X			
Chris Langschultz	X			
Tom Lodato	X			
Tom Neats	X			
Jamie Orlando	X			
Laurie Phipps			X	
Natalie Rivas	X			
Sarah Shaffren		X		
Dr. Chris Tully				X