

Resolution in Support of Intellectual Freedom

WHEREAS this Board recognizes that the First Amendment of the United States Constitution protects freedom of speech, giving library users, with few exceptions, the right to seek, receive, and communicate information and ideas, regardless of the medium used; and

WHEREAS this Board recognizes that the first amendment prohibits libraries from making decisions based solely on an intent to suppress access to particular ideas, as confirmed by the United States Supreme Court in Bd. Of Educ. Of Island Trees Union Free School District v. Pico 1982; and

WHEREAS this Board affirms ALA's Library Bill of Rights, which states, "Library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community"; and

WHEREAS this Board affirms ALA's Freedom to Read statement, which states, "It is in the public interest for [...] librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox [or] unpopular," as well as ALA's Freedom to View statement; and

WHEREAS this Board affirms that library materials are carefully selected by professionally-trained librarians and that it is the responsibility of library staff to utilize their discretion to select library materials and coordinate programs and services without censoring access to ideas, even though such content may be controversial, unorthodox, or unacceptable to some; and

WHEREAS library users are free to choose what they want from the library's collections and services, to reject what they don't like, but not to restrict the freedom of others to choose;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board stands firmly opposed to attempts to obstruct intellectual freedom with regard to library collections, operations, programs, and services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board will follow the process for resolving challenges to library resources outlined in our Library Material Selection Policy and that this policy applies equally to all people, including, but not limited to, library users, staff, and members of this governing body; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board will seek the advice of library professionals, legal counsel, and our constituents in decisions of consequence related to intellectual freedom.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the
Jericho Public Library September 13, 2022