

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD, UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION: 2023-12-237	DATE OF ADOPTION: December 18, 2023
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RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE FANWOOD MEMORIAL LIBRARY DESIGNATING ITSELF AS A BOOK SANCTUARY

WHEREAS, the freedom to read is a human right, constitutionally 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, Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”; and

WHEREAS, books do not require readers to agree with topics or themes but instead allow readers to explore and engage with differing perspectives to form and inform their own views; and


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

WHEREAS, book bans often seek to impose restrictions based on the political, ideological, or cultural preferences of the individuals calling for book bans which have shown to have multifaceted harmful consequences such as restricting freedom of thought and expression and silencing the voices of individuals from marginalized groups; and

WHEREAS, as a book sanctuary library, the Fanwood Memorial Library shall be a place where everyone can: (1) borrow and read challenged books; (2) make endangered books accessible to everyone; (3) host book talks, story times, and other events about banned and challenged books; and (4) educate others on the history of book banning and burning; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor & Council of the Borough of Fanwood hereby endorse the actions of the Fanwood Memorial Library Board of Trustees designating itself as a book sanctuary as reflecting the values of the governing body and community at large.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

<p>Certified to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Governing Body of the Borough of Fanwood at the duly held Meeting on the 18th day of December, 2023.</p>  <p>Courtney Agnello, Borough Clerk</p>	MOTION:	Council President Jeffrey Banks
	SECOND:	Patricia Walsh
	YES:	Jeffrey Banks, Gina Berry, Anthony Carter, Erin McElroy Barker, Katherine Mitchell, Patricia Walsh
	NO:	None
	ABSTAIN:	None
	ABSENT:	None