

RESOLUTION

R22-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, OPPOSING 15-CSR 30-200.015 LIBRARY CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR THE PROTECTION OF MINORS SUBMITTED BY THE MISSOURI SECRETARY OF STATE.

“WHEREAS, the freedom to read is a human right, constitutionally protected by the First Amendment, and individuals have the right to free inquiry and the equally important right to form their own opinions;

WHEREAS, public libraries are a uniquely American institution considered by the founders to be both the cornerstone and bulwark of the free flow of information and ideas vital to a strong and functioning democracy;

WHEREAS, libraries operate under collection development policies that include procedures and guidelines for the acquisition and removal of all material, are approved by the appropriate governing authorities, and consider the needs and expectations of the community being served;

WHEREAS, these established policies and procedures provide clear ways for individuals to request reconsideration of library materials, and processes to ensure that the best interests of the entire community or student body are considered when evaluating library content;

WHEREAS, Librarians have a master’s degree and receive extensive professional training that prepares them to develop collections not based on librarians’ personal preferences or beliefs but designed to meet the broad and varied interests and needs of their communities and students;

WHEREAS, parents and guardians have the right to determine what their own children may read, but do not have the right to determine what all children may read, because no single book is right for everyone but one book can make a significant difference in one life;”¹

WHEREAS, the Maplewood City Council supports the Maplewood Public Library and the Maplewood Public Library Board of Trustees and the local control of their Library administration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI:

1. Supports the Board of Trustees of the Maplewood Public Library’s commitment to uphold intellectual freedom;
2. Supports the Board of Trustees of the Maplewood Public Library’s defense of patron’s freedom to read and asserts that it is the sole right and responsibility of the parent or guardian to determine what Library material is appropriate for their children; and
3. Affirms that policy and collection development decisions should remain at the local level.

¹ Texas Library Association’s Resolution in support of the Freedom to Read and Texas Libraries.
<https://txla.org/news/resolution-in-support-of-the-freedom-to-read-and-texas-libraries/>

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Maplewood, Missouri:

- 1. Urges the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules reject 15 CSR 30-200.015.

Passed this 13th day of December, 2022

Nikylan Knapper, Mayor

Attest:

Karen Scheidt, City Clerk

Approved this 13th day of December, 2022

Nikylan Knapper, Mayor

Attest:

Karen Scheidt, City Clerk