

**RESOLUTION NO. XXXX**

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAPITOLA  
AGAINST BANNING BOOKS AND MATERIALS IN THE SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARIES  
SYSTEM**

**WHEREAS**, the role of libraries is to provide works and information reflective of diverse perspectives and lived experiences; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Cruz Public Library’s Strategic Plan for 2022-2025 has a goal to “create an organizational culture of equity and inclusion and provide equitable and relevant services to all;” and

**WHEREAS**, we appreciate our library staff who are often on the front lines of the fight for the freedom to read; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the American Library Association (ALA), there were 1,269 attempts to censor materials in public libraries in 2022, nearly double the previous year; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the ALA, there were 32 attempts in California to restrict access to books in 2022, covering 87 titles, with the most challenged titles being Gender Queer: A Memoir and Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Office for Intellectual Freedom at the ALA, six of the top seven titles requested to be banned nationwide in 2022 featured LGBTQ+ content (the seventh was Toni Morrison’s The Bluest Eye); and

**WHEREAS**, book banning is incompatible with a healthy democracy;

**WHEREAS**, governing bodies in Missouri, Virginia, Arkansas, Texas, Florida, and others have endorsed banning books and have defunded public libraries or threatened to cut funding for public libraries who do not comply.

**NOW, THEREFORE, MAY IT BE RESOLVED**, that the City of Capitola supports the Library Advisory Commission’s commitment to open access and information as well as allowing free inquiry throughout the Santa Cruz Public Library system, and opposes banning books and materials.

**MAY IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Capitola affirms that library funding will not be affected by choices in material selection.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Capitola on the XX day of XX, 2023, by the following vote:

**AYES:**  
**NOES:**  
**ABSENT:**  
**ABSTAIN:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Margaux Keiser, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julia Gautho, City Clerk