

Capitola City Council

Agenda Report



Meeting: November 9, 2023

From: City Manager Department

Subject: Resolution Against Banning Materials

Recommended Action: Adopt a resolution against banning books and materials in the Santa Cruz Public Library system. **(Continued from October 26, 2023)**

Background: The Santa Cruz Public Libraries (SCPL) system delivers information, education, and enrichment through a network of ten neighborhood libraries. In addition, SCPL maintains a web-based digital library, a Bookmobile, and community-based programming. Residents can explore a wide range of interests from academic research, book clubs and literacy programs to digital photography, locally produced music, and local history.

The City of Capitola is home to a Santa Cruz County Public Library, located at 2005 Wharf Road. The library has been open since 2021. Other branch locations include Aptos, Boulder Creek, Branciforte, Downtown Santa Cruz, Felton, Garfield Park, La Selva Beach, Live Oak and Scotts Valley.

On October 12, 2023, City Council Member Brown requested that staff bring forward a resolution against the banning of books and materials at the Santa Cruz Public Libraries system.

Discussion: The City of Capitola supports the Santa Cruz Public Libraries' values of relevance, inclusiveness, community engagement, responsive service, and safe environment. According to the American Library Association (ALA), there were 32 attempts in California to restrict access to books in 2022. The City of Capitola supports the SCPL's commitment to provide open access and information, as well as allowing free inquiry, and opposes banning books and materials.

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact associated with the proposed resolution.

Attachments:

1. Resolution

Report Prepared By: Julia Gautho, City Clerk

Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager