



Town of Lake Park Town Commission

Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date: October 4, 2023

Originating Department: Library

Agenda Title: Proclamation Declaring October 1-7, 2023, as Banned Books Week

Approved by Town Manager: John D'Agostino Digitally signed by John D'Agostino
DN: cn=John D'Agostino, o=Town of Lake
Park, ou=Town Manager,
email=jdagostino@lakeparkflorida.gov,
c=US
Date: 2023.09.22 14:32:38 -04'00' **Date:** _____

Cost of Item: \$0.00 **Funding Source:** _____

Account Number: _____ **Finance Signature:** _____

Advertised: _____

Date: _____ **Newspaper:** _____

Attachments: Proclamation

Please initial one:

_____ Yes I have notified everyone

JKC Not applicable in this case

Summary Explanation/Background:

Banned Books Week celebrates the freedom to read and spotlights current and historical attempts to censor books in libraries and schools. For over 40 years, the annual event has brought together the entire book community to support the freedom to seek and express ideas, even those some consider unorthodox or unpopular. The books featured during Banned Books Week have all been targeted for removal or restriction in libraries and schools. By focusing on efforts nationwide to remove or restrict access to books, Banned Books Week draws national attention to the harms of censorship.

These last few years have seen an unprecedented number of challenges against books. As of August 31, there were 695 attempts to censor library materials or services across the county. Many of the titles challenged are written by or about LGBTQIA+ persons and Black, Indigenous, and people of color. This year's theme is "Let Freedom Read." When we ban books, we are closing off readers to people, places, and perspectives. But when we stand up for stories, we unleash the power that lies inside every book. We liberate the array of voices that need to be heard and the scenes that need to be seen. Let freedom read!

Recommended Motion:

I move to proclaim October 1-7, 2023 as Banned Books Week.