

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION COUNCIL SERIES NO: C-6822

COUNCIL SPONSOR: MR. SMITH

PROVIDED BY: COUNCIL STAFF

RESOLUTION TO THE ST TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL IN SUPPORT OF ACT 436 AND TO URGE THE ADOPTION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO COMPLY WITH THE ACT AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

WHEREAS, parents have the right and responsibility to guide and direct the reading, listening, and viewing choices available to their minor children in libraries and rely on the collections curated by libraries to help them make educated and informed decisions; and

WHEREAS, the St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control is continuing to reexamine its policies and procedures pertaining to the access to sensitive materials by minors and the process for addressing challenges to those materials; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 7 was adopted by the Louisiana Legislature and signed into law by Governor Jon Bel Edwards as Act 436 (2023) effective August 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Act 436 provides that all Library Boards of Control enact polices no later than January 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, SB 7 of the Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature of 2023, introduced by Senator Cloud, amends La. R.S. 25:225 and provides requirements for Library Board of Control policies pertaining to the protection of minors from sexually explicit materials. SB 7 was signed by Governor Jon Bel Edwards and became Act 436, effective August 1, 2023 (Act 436 is attached); and

WHEREAS, SB 7 would require the St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control to adopt a policy considering community standards when acquiring library materials, a library card system which restricts access by minors to sexually explicit materials, a procedure to allow a patron to request reconsideration of whether library materials should be included in a collection accessible by a minor, and related matters; and

WHEREAS, the St. Tammany Parish Council urges the Library Board of Control to enact any additional policies and procedures necessary to prevent potentially harmful books and materials within the Library system's collection from being widely accessible by minors without ensuring parental controls are in place, consistent with the policy language included in Act 436 immediately.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council hereby urges the Library Board of Control to adopt any and all necessary policies and procedures in compliance with Act 436 and implement same immediately.

MOVED FOR ADOPTION BY: _____ SECONDED BY: _____

THIS RESOLUTION HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO A VOTE, THE VOTE THEREON WAS AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

THIS RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED ON THE 30TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2023, AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERS BEING PRESENT AND VOTING.

JACOB "JAKE" A. AIREY, COUNCIL CHAIR

ATTEST:

KATRINA L. BUCKLEY, COUNCIL CLERK