

Proclamation

Declaring October 1-7, 2023 Banned Books Week in the City of Tualatin

WHEREAS, the freedom to read is essential for a strong democracy, protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution along with the freedom of speech; and

WHEREAS some individuals, groups, and public authorities work to remove or limit access to reading materials, to label views as controversial, to distribute lists of books or authors considered objectionable, and to purge libraries of materials reflecting the diversity of society; and

WHEREAS, the role of libraries is to collect and make available diverse works and information reflective of many perspectives and lived experiences including materials reflecting the experience of marginalized and underrepresented groups of people; and

WHEREAS, books do not require readers to agree with topics or themes but instead allow readers to explore and engage with differing perspectives to form and inform their own views; and

WHEREAS, Americans still favor free enterprise in ideas and expression, and can be trusted to exercise critical judgment, to recognize propaganda and misinformation, and to make their own decisions about what they read and believe, and to exercise the responsibilities that accompany this freedom; and

WHEREAS, Banned Books Week celebrates the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one's opinion even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular and stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them; and

WHEREAS the Tualatin City Council supports the rights of all to have the opportunity to read a wide array of books reflecting a multitude of viewpoints and perspectives; and

WHEREAS the Tualatin City Council supports writers' freedom of expression and the freedom of all Americans to read books without government censorship;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TUALATIN, Oregon that Tualatin celebrates Banned Books Week, October 1-7, 2023. We encourage free people to read freely, now and forever.

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED this 25th day of September, 2023.

CITY OF TUALATIN, OREGON

BY _____
Mayor

ATTEST:

BY _____
City Recorder