

Freedom to Read Proclamation

WHEREAS, the freedom to read is essential to our democracy, and the sharing of ideas and information is among our greatest freedoms; and

WHEREAS, privacy is essential to the exercise of that freedom, and the right to privacy is the right to open inquiry without having the subject of one's interest examined or scrutinized by others; and

WHEREAS, the freedom to read is protected by our Constitutional rights outlined in the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights; and

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

WHEREAS, both governmental intimidation and the fear of censorship cause authors who seek to avoid controversy to practice self-censorship, thus limiting our access to new ideas; and

WHEREAS, every silencing of a heresy, every enforcement of an orthodoxy, diminishes the toughness and resilience of American society and leaves it less able to deal with controversy and difference; 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, intellectual freedom is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture; and

WHEREAS, conformity limits the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend; and

WHEREAS, Half Price Books, Records, Magazines, Incorporated: Delete Censorship campaign is being observed during this last week of September as a reminder to Americans not to take their freedoms for granted; 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; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that I/WE celebrate(s) Banned Books Week with Half Price Books, Records, Magazines, Incorporated on this September 23-30, 2006, and be it further

RESOLVED, that I/WE encourage(s) all libraries and bookstores to acquire and make available materials representative of all the people in our society; and be it further

RESOLVED, that I/WE support(s) the freedom of ideas and the sharing of knowledge through all readers and writers exercising their First Amendment Rights, now and forever.

Signed X _____

Name _____

Date _____

City, State _____