

2024 RES-148
RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 22-28, 2024 AS BANNED BOOKS WEEK

WHEREAS, Banned Books Week was first held during the last full week of September beginning in 1982, and is intended to encourage readers to examine challenged literary works and promote intellectual freedom in libraries, schools, and bookstores; and

WHEREAS, the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom documented 1,247 demands to censor library books and resources in 2023, and 4,240 unique book titles were targeted for removal from schools and libraries in 2023, which equates to a 65% increase in book banning efforts compared to in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the act of banning books poses a significant threat to intellectual freedom and undermines the principles of democracy and free expression; and

WHEREAS, books often are challenged or banned for their content, including themes of race, gender, sexuality, and social justice, limiting the opportunities for individuals to engage with different perspectives; and

WHEREAS, promoting the freedom to read fosters critical thinking, empathy, and a more informed citizenry; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to recognize the voices of authors, educators, and advocates who stand against censorship and promote the value of diverse literature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes Banned Books Week from September 22-28, 2024, and encourages community members to explore challenged banned books and engage in discussions about the impact of censorship.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors commits to supporting initiatives that promote literacy, access to diverse literature, and the rights of individuals to choose what they read.

Patrick Miles, Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisor

Signed and sealed before me this
_____ day of _____, 2024.

Scott McDonell,
Dane County Clerk