

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
AGENDA SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

AGENDA DATE: September 13, 2022

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER:

City Representative Aleksandra Annello, 915-212-0002

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

STRATEGIC GOAL: (Goal 4 - Enhance El Paso's Quality of Life Through Recreational, Cultural & Educational Environments)

SUBJECT:

APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? OR AUTHORIZE the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.

Discussion and action to recognize September 18 - 24 as the American Library Association's Banned Books Week.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?

In 1982, the annual celebration of Banned Books Week was launched by the Office of Intellectual Freedoms, the American Library Association, and the publishing community in order to fight against censorship and celebrate the freedom to read.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?

N/A

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?

N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in 1982, the annual celebration of Banned Books Week was launched by the Office of Intellectual Freedoms, the American Library Association, and the publishing community in order to fight against censorship and celebrate the freedom to read; and

WHEREAS, Banned Books Week is celebrated in order to highlight current and historical attempts to censor books in libraries and schools, while also celebrating the freedom to choose as well as the freedom to express one's opinion even if that viewpoint may be deemed unconventional; and

WHEREAS, Texas state officials in leadership positions last year began questioning books and reading materials in public schools, particularly those relating to race and sexuality, including Pulitzer Prize-winning books and authors, and

WHEREAS, the books that are being questioned tell the stories of people of color and are the stories of the marginally oppressed, which should be included in the education of all people; and

WHEREAS, we should recognize that the power of words and books is used to open the eyes and the world of younger generations, by starting conversations and outlining the perspectives of different groups and individuals, and Banned Books Week was established to acknowledge this fact and celebrate the stories that officials in our state are trying to silence; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso has committed to building a truly equitable community by guaranteeing every citizen has the freedom to read and have access to diversity and information, and YWCA El Paso del Norte Region's mission is to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all; and

WHEREAS, YWCA El Paso del Norte Region and the City of El Paso have partnered to create Banned Books sections in all City of El Paso Public Libraries, ensuring all community members have access to stories that represent them, and that citizens are encouraged to embrace diversity by reading stories about communities other than their own; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

Recognizes September 18 - 24 as the American Library Association's Banned Books Week.

(Signatures on the following page)

PASSED AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2022.

THE CITY OF EL PASO:

Oscar Leeser, Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Danielle Escontrias

Danielle Escontrias
Assistant City Attorney