

**Resolution of the Mercer County Library Commission**

**Declaring the Mercer County Library System, a Book Sanctuary**

**May 20, 2025 Meeting of the Mercer County Library Commission**

**WHEREAS**, the freedom to read is a human right, constitutionally protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, and individuals have the right to free inquiry and the equally important right to form their own opinions; 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**, the Mercer County Library System strives to serve and address the needs of all segments of its member communities of East Windsor, Ewing, Hightstown, Hopewell, Lawrence, Robbinsville and West Windsor, with unrestricted access to a broad and diverse collection of resources; and

**WHEREAS**, members of the community are responsible for their use of Library resources, and likewise are solely responsible for the use of Library resources by minors in their care; and

**WHEREAS**, the Library Commission of the Mercer County Library System recognizes that the Library has a responsibility to protect and promote the constitutional rights of each Library patron to access and use library resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mercer County Library System opposes censorship and protects freedom of expression in its communities by providing information and promoting free and respectful expression of differing viewpoints; and

**WHEREAS**, a sanctuary Library creates a safe space for ideas and resources, especially those that have been or are in danger of being challenged, as there has been a significant increase in censorship activities in the United States.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mercer County Library Commission, County of Mercer and State of New Jersey declares the Mercer County Library System to be a Book Sanctuary Library.

Moved: Commissioner Phyllis Anker; Seconder: Commissioner Walter Brown:  
Be resolved: Commissioner Dennis Waters, 5/20/25