

**TOWNSHIP OF VERONA  
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION No. 2024-238**

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor McEvoy; seconded by Mayor Tamburro that the following resolution be adopted:

**DECLARING THE VERONA PUBLIC LIBRARY TO BE A  
BOOK SANCTUARY LIBRARY**

**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**, the Township Council recognizes the Township of Verona Library has a responsibility to protect and promote the constitutional rights of each Library patron to access and use library resources; 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**, over the last several years, there has been a significant increase in censorship activities in the United States resulting in books being removed from library shelves and schools; and

**WHEREAS**, book bans often seek to impose restrictions based on the political, ideological, or cultural preferences of the individuals calling for book bans; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council opposes censorship of books and materials in the Library collection and the Township Council protects freedom of expression in the community by supporting the Library's goal of providing information and promoting free and respectful expression of differing viewpoints; and

**WHEREAS**, the Verona Public Library has a material selection process that is fair, deliberative, equitable, and accessible to the public as set forth in its Collection Development Policy adopted by the Verona Public Library Board of Trustees.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Verona hereby declares the Verona Public Library to be a Book Sanctuary Library.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro

**NAYS:**

**THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 2, 2024.**

  
JENNIFER KIERNAN, CMC  
MUNICIPAL CLERK

