**THE PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF ANNAPOLIS
AND ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, INCORPORATED**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**DESIGNATING the Anne Arundel County Public Library as a Book Sanctuary.**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees (“the Board”) of the Public Library Association of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, Inc. (“the Library”) was held at the Deale Library, 5940 Deale-Churchton Road, Deale, Maryland, 20751, on September 19, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. A quorum of the Board was present and unanimously adopted the following resolution:

 **WHEREAS**, the freedom to read is fundamental to enabling free people to exercise their rights and duties for self-determination under a democracy; and

 **WHEREAS**, the freedom to read is enshrined both in the history and law of Maryland and in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

 **WHEREAS**, the Library is committed to protecting the rights of all who use the Library’s resources and services, to defend their freedom to choose and to read, and to embrace the power of knowledge to improve lives; and

 **WHEREAS**, the Library is committed to providing open access to a diverse collection of resources and services that represent a broad spectrum of knowledge, people, opinions, and ideas; and

 **WHEREAS**, private groups and public authorities in various parts of the United States are working to remove or limit access to library materials, to censor content in schools and libraries, to label “controversial” views, to distribute lists of “objectionable” books or authors, and to purge libraries for the effect of “banning” certain books; and

 **WHEREAS**, these book banning efforts are repugnant to the traditional American values of self-determination, personal responsibility, and parental/familial rights to choose how to raise their own children; and

 **WHEREAS**, these book banning efforts are contrary to the fundamental rights of free people to choose books and other library resources for themselves;

 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES**: that the Library is declared a Book Sanctuary where all who use the Library may enjoy open access to knowledge and ideas and can engage with information and stories in free, respectful, and enriching inquiry;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Library Chief Executive Officer is authorized to take all necessary actions to support this Book Sanctuary to include public awareness efforts, special programming and displays, community outreach, and a continuing commitment to a diverse collection to serve our community;

 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that that the Library Chief Executive Officer is authorized to take action to support other Book Sanctuaries and similar efforts throughout Maryland and the United States.

*Adopted by the AACPL Board of Trustees on September 19, 2024*