

# INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

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## **I. Freedom to Read:**

The Charles City Public Library Board of Trustees affirms its belief in the Freedom to Read statement as approved by the American Library Association.

1. It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those which are unorthodox or unpopular with the majority.
2. Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation contained in the materials they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as the sole standard for determining what materials should be published and circulated.
3. It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to determine the acceptability of materials on the basis of the personal history of the author.
4. No efforts shall be made to coerce the taste of others.
5. No reader should be forced to accept, on any book or other Library materials, the prejudgment by labeling the book or author as subversive or dangerous. Labeling is the practice of describing or designating certain Library materials by affixing a prejudicial label to them or segregating them by the prejudicial system so as to predispose readers against the materials.
6. It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians as guardians of the people's freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals, or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large.

## **II. Freedom to View:**

The Charles City Public Library Board of Trustees affirms its belief in the Freedom to View statement as approved by the American Library Association.

The Freedom to View, along with the freedom to speak, to hear, and to read, is protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. In a free society, there is no place for censorship of any medium of expression. Therefore, these policies are affirmed:

1. To provide the broadest possible access to film, video, and other audiovisual materials because they are a means for the communication of ideas. Liberty of circulation is essential to insure the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression.
2. To protect the confidentiality of all individuals and institutions using film, video, and other audiovisual materials.
3. To provide film, video, and other audiovisual materials which represent a diversity of views and expressions. Selection of work does not constitute or imply agreement with or approval of content.
4. To provide a diversity of viewpoints without the constraint of labeling or prejudging a film, video, and other audiovisual materials on the basis of moral, religious, or political beliefs of the producer or filmmaker or on the basis of controversial content.
5. To contest vigorously, by all lawful means, every encroachment upon the public's freedom to view.

## **III. Library Bill of Rights**

The Charles City Public Library Board of Trustees affirms its belief in the following basic policies which would govern the services of all libraries. The Board agrees with the American Library Association Library Bill of Rights, which follows.

1. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of their origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
2. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed from libraries because of partisan or doctrinal approval.
3. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
4. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
5. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
6. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.
7. All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people's privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.

#### **IV. Censorship**

The selection of materials, if questioned, shall be reviewed according to the guidelines outlined in the Collection Development Policy.

***Reviewed and reaffirmed 12/11/2014, amended 10/8/2020, 8/8/2024***