

Proposed: 09/18/2023

RESOLUTION NO. 154-2022(CRR), *First Reading*

By Councilmember Russell

A Resolution recognizing October, 2023 as *National Book Month*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

WHEREAS, reading is one of the best things you can do for your mental health and each October, *National Book Month* allows us all to celebrate and expand our love of reading; and

WHEREAS, reading provides mental stimulation, and studies have shown that it can slow, or even prevent altogether, diseases like Alzheimer's and Dementia; and

WHEREAS, reading reduces stress, provides knowledge, and expands a reader's vocabulary and memory; and

WHEREAS, according to the Pew Research Center, there has been about an 11% decline in the number of 9–13-year-olds reading for fun; and

WHEREAS, in the 2021-2022 school year, 1,586 books were banned in schools across the United States—a significant percentage of those books directly addressed issues of race, racism and LGBTQ+ rights, the purpose of book bans being to erase history and represent the effort to silence people who are already the most underrepresented in literature; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 The American Booksellers Association, the trade group for independent bookstore owners, says it now has 2,010 members at 2,547 locations—300 more than it had in Spring 2021, and the most members it has had in years; and

WHEREAS, efforts like The Little Free Library movement are filling communities with more books—and creating a connecting point for neighbors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. This Council hereby proclaims October 2023, *National Book Month*; and urges every resident to celebrate by checking out a book from our libraries, or picking up an old favorite to reread.

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SECTION 2. Notice of the passage of this Resolution shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights.

SECTION 3. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the City of Cleveland Heights, such emergency being the need to recognize *National Book Month* on a timely basis. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five (5) or more of the members elected or appointed to this Council, this Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

MELODY JOY HART
President of the Council

ADDIE BALESTER
Clerk of Council

PASSED:

Presented to Mayor: _____

Approved: _____

KAHLIL SEREN
Mayor