

PROPOSED

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING EQUITABLE PUBLIC ACCESS TO E-BOOKS; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Sponsored by Commissioner Beam Furr)

WHEREAS, major publishers have introduced severe restrictions to e-book and e-audiobook lending by public library systems, which affects lending practices by the Broward County Libraries Division (“Libraries Division”);

WHEREAS, these restrictions include limitations on the sale of new electronic titles to public libraries and unreasonably high prices for electronic versions of publications when sold to libraries, far exceeding the prices offered for the print versions of the same books;

WHEREAS, these restrictions are most harmful for populations who already face significant barriers to equitable access to knowledge and information in our communities— including youth, people living with disabilities, and those with limited financial means;

WHEREAS, according to the Urban Libraries Council, the demand for e-books and e-audiobooks from public library users is increasing nationally by 30 percent per year; and

WHEREAS, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners (“Board”) is committed to protecting and supporting the ability of the Libraries Division to provide individuals with equal access to gain knowledge and experience with digital tools, regardless of their income or physical abilities, NOW, THEREFORE,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
2 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

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4 Section 1. The Board expresses its support for fair and equitable access to
5 electronic versions of library materials, and expresses its opposition to the unreasonable
6 restrictions that certain publishers have placed upon e-book and e-audiobook lending by
7 the Libraries Division and other public library systems. The Board calls upon these
8 publishers to withdraw unreasonable restrictions on public access to e-books and e-
9 audiobooks.

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11 Section 2. A copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted by the Libraries
12 Division to the Urban Libraries Council, which is coordinating a response to the
13 publishers.

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15 Section 3. Severability.

16 If any portion of this Resolution is determined by any court to be invalid, the invalid
17 portion will be stricken, and such striking will not affect the validity of the remainder of this
18 Resolution. If any court determines that this Resolution, in whole or in part, cannot be
19 legally applied to any individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance, such
20 determination will not affect the applicability of this Resolution to any other individual,
21 group, entity, property, or circumstance.

