Council Member ____ made a motion to approve the following resolution. A vote of __ .

RESOLUTION

AFFIRMATION BY THE TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH AS PROTECTED BY THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND RECOMMITMENT TO PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES BY THE TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN AND BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Resolution #R-25-16

WHEREAS, libraries inspire lifelong learning, offering a space where individuals can explore new ideas; connecting people with knowledge, technology, and resources while fostering civic engagement, and providing safe and welcoming space for all;

WHEREAS, libraries serve as vibrant community hubs, providing free and equitable access to books, digital tools, wi-fi, and innovative programming for all ages;

WHEREAS, libraries protect the right to read, think, and explore without censorship, standing as champions of intellectual freedom and free expression;

WHEREAS, the Town of Black Mountain has a long history of appreciating the value of public libraries, the first one being established here in 1922;

WHEREAS, the Black Mountain-Tyson Public Library has enjoyed a long and fruitful partnership with the Buncombe County Libraries in its current location, made possible in large part because of the service of local volunteers serving on the Town of Black Mountain Library Board overseeing building maintenance needs, including retired board members Judd Dougherty, Ron Sneed, and Carol Tyson having served a cumulative total of over 100 years;

WHEREAS, Buncombe County through its Department of Library Services maintains the highest professional standards for library management at twelve locations ensuring safe, enriching environments for patrons and meeting all requirements put forth by the State Library of North Carolina;

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Black Mountain Library are relentless advocates for quality library services;

WHEREAS, recent changes by the federal government include the elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), one outcome being the reduction or elimination of funding for state library services like NC Cardinal, our state library consortium for shared library

services; another outcome being the stated intention to influence the nature of materials available in public libraries;

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Black Mountain Library work tirelessly to raise funds necessary to supplement the resources available in the Black Mountain-Tyson Public Library, including periodical subscriptions, large print book purchases, furniture, children's programming, cultural programming, and more;

WHEREAS, the long history of municipal, county, and volunteer partnership has been fruitful, cost efficient, and rewarding for our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Black Mountain in honor of National Library Week, April 6-12, 2025, that the Town reaffirms our commitment to our partnership with Buncombe County in making sure quality library services are available for our area residents and visitors.

READ, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Black Mountain, North Carolina, upon a motion by Council Member _____, on the 14th day of April 2025.

_____
C. Michael Sobol, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____

Wesley M. Barker, Town Clerk