

MOTION

TRADE, TRAVEL AND TOURISM

In 2022, a short story dispenser was installed at the Eugene Airport in Eugene, Oregon in partnership with the Eugene Public Library and Eugene Public Library Foundation. Through these dispensers, travelers of all ages flying though the Eugene Airport can choose from local, international, or for kids reading materials. A free short story or poem is then dispensed using ink free recycled paper. The Eugene short story dispenser is the first in Oregon and the only one located at an airport in the Pacific Northwest. Its location is estimated to be taken by approximately one million people annually. According to the company that makes these dispensers, there are more than 300 dispensers in action worldwide, including Melbourne, Hong Kong, Paris, London, San Francisco, and Philadelphia, which have served more than 5.6 million readers.

For more than 40 years, the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) has annually celebrated the freedom to read and spotlighted current and historical attempts to censor books in libraries and schools through the celebration of Banned Books Week in October. Additionally, through 2023, the LAPL ran the Read Freely program which made a selection of the most challenged books reported to the American Library Association available to anyone in the United States ages 13 and up. Through the program approximately 450 Read Freely library cards were issued nationwide and 120 e-books were checked out. As book bans continue to increase across the County, the time is now for the City to continue taking action in widening the access to restricted titles and improving the LAPL's efforts to ensure that programs like Read Freely do not go underutilized.

The Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is the sixth busiest airport in the world and the fifth busiest in the United States. In 2022, over 65 million people were estimated to have traveled through LAX making it an ideal location to place similar dispensers for electronic access to banned books that would otherwise not be easily accessible to all those crossing through LAX.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request the Library Department to report on the feasibility of relaunching the Read Freely program to ensure the access of banned books all year round to individuals living within the United States.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Library Department and the Los Angeles World Airport be requested to report with a plan that would allow for the access of banned books at each terminal in the Los Angeles International Airport.

PRESENTED BY Monica Rodriguez  
MONICA RODRIGUEZ  
Councilwoman, 7<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: Wai Park

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