

A Tribute Resolution Commending the Ferguson Municipal Public Library
for Serving the Community in a Time of Crisis

Whereas libraries are key to building vibrant communities and sustaining a strong democracy by serving as a principal destination for individual learning, personal enrichment, and community engagement;

Whereas civil unrest and public demonstrations have periodically disrupted access to public libraries and public schools, among other vital public institutions;

Whereas the American Library Association has recognized and encouraged library service to local communities during times of crisis in the past;

Whereas the library staff at Ferguson Municipal Public Library of Ferguson, Missouri exemplified the library profession's core values of service and the public good (ALA policy, B.1.1) during a time of civil unrest that began immediately following the shooting death of Michael Brown in August 2014;

Whereas the library staff at Ferguson Municipal Public Library anticipated the needs of its community by providing peaceful, quiet space and time amidst the political turmoil that had been taking place within the city;

Whereas, in both August and November 2014, the Ferguson Municipal Public Library remained open and provided space for teachers to hold classes while the Ferguson-Florissant School District closed;

Whereas the library staff of the Ferguson Municipal Public Library performed a pivotal role between community organizations and its citizenry by facilitating the creation of special programming and educational experiences for the students of Ferguson-Florissant School District;

Whereas the library staff of the Ferguson Municipal Public Library supported its community by hosting the US Small Business Administration to provide emergency loans, the office of the US Secretary of State to provide document recovery and preservation services, and the Missouri Department of Insurance to help local businesses file for insurance and claims;

Whereas the library staff of the Ferguson Municipal Public Library supported the children of Ferguson, Missouri by circulating healing kits, which included books and activities to help them cope with the unrest in their community, including a stuffed animal that they could keep; and

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Whereas the Ferguson Public Library accepted and distributed gifts and donations from individuals and groups outside of Ferguson intended to help Ferguson community residents through the community engagement work being conducted by the Ferguson Municipal Public Library, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. acknowledges that many libraries, in the United States and abroad, have provided library services during times of crisis, civil unrest, or other disasters, and applauds those actions;
2. celebrates the creativity, leadership, and commitment to service demonstrated by the entire staff of the Ferguson Municipal Public Library during an extended period of unrest in the local community, beginning in August 2014; and
3. recognizes the powerful example of community engagement set by the staff of the Ferguson Municipal Public Library through their work with children, parents, teachers, library volunteers, first-responders and emergency service workers, and members of the local and national media; and
4. sends a letter acknowledging the work and contributions of the Ferguson Municipal Public Library staff, including Scott Bonner, Director, to the Missouri Chapter to be passed on to the appropriate parties.

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