

Resolution To Rescind Meeting Rooms: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights* (2017-2018 ALA CD#19.6_62617_act)

Whereas the American Library Association values equity, diversity, inclusion, and intellectual freedom; has recognized that this work specifically includes “addressing, dismantling, and transforming policies, structures and biases throughout the organization and the field of librarianship”; and has developed strategic goals to “[e]stablish ALA as a major voice for the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion in all areas of information policy, and to provide safe, respectful spaces for diverse voices and perspectives”;¹

Whereas there are grave concerns expressed by many ALA members about the recently adopted changes to Meeting Rooms: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*;

Whereas the language “hate groups” was added in the final revision of Meeting Rooms: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights* (2017-2018 ALA CD#19.6_62617_act) and the introduction of the motion failed to mention this key revision to a section that had received significant prior comment; and

Whereas the Intellectual Freedom Committee announced on July 14, 2018 that they heard the community concern and would form a working group to immediately begin revising the interpretation; now, therefore, be it

¹ ALA Strategic Directions, 2017, http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/cro/getinvolved/Strategic-Directions-2017_Update.pdf

Resolved, that the ALA Council:

1. rescind approval of Meeting Rooms: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights* (2017-2018 ALA CD#19.6_62617_act) and revert to the 1991 version as the current official policy statement; and
2. direct the Intellectual Freedom Committee to establish a joint working group with the Committee on Diversity, the Public Library Association, and the Social Responsibility Round Table, that will establish a public comment mechanism and deliver a revised draft of the interpretation to Council by October 1, 2018.

Mover: Melissa Cardenas-Dow, Councilor-at-Large

Seconders: Stephanie Chase, PLA Division Councilor

Emily Drabinski, Councilor-at-Large

Erica Findley, Councilor-at-Large

Ed Garcia, Executive Board

Martin Garnar, IFRT Councilor

April Hathcock, Councilor-at-Large

Maria McCauley, Executive Board

Jessica Schomberg, Councilor-at-Large

Erin Stalberg, ALCTS Division Councilor

