

## ***Proclamation***

### ***Supporting Alameda County Libraries Banned Books Week 2011 Celebration in the City of Albany***

***WHEREAS***, the freedom to read is essential to our democracy, and

***WHEREAS***, the freedom to read, view, and form personal opinions free from interference by others is protected by our Constitution; and

***WHEREAS***, privacy is essential in exercising that freedom, and the right to privacy is the right to open inquiry without having the subject of one's interest examined or scrutinized by others; and

***WHEREAS***, some individuals, groups, and public authorities work to remove or limit access to reading and viewing materials, to censor content in schools, and to purge libraries of materials reflecting the diversity of society; and

***WHEREAS***, intellectual freedom is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture; and

***WHEREAS***, Americans favor free enterprise in ideas and expression, and can make their own decisions about what they read and believe, and exercise the responsibilities that accompany this freedom; and

***WHEREAS***, the American Library Association's Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read is observed during the last week of September each year as a reminder to Americans not to take their precious freedom for granted; and

***WHEREAS***, Banned Books Week celebrates the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one's opinion even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular and stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them;

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*** that I, Farid Javandel, Mayor of the City of Albany, California, proclaim the American Library Association's Banned Books Week, September 24-October 1, 2011 in the City of Albany. I encourage the Albany Branch of the Alameda County Library to acquire and make available materials representative of all the people, ideas and innovation in our society. I further encourage free people to read freely, now and forever.

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Farid Javandel, Mayor