

**CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**Special Board Meeting**

August 29, 2019

**RESOLUTION URGING E-CONTENT PUBLISHERS TO RECONSIDER  
POLICIES LIMITING LIBRARY ACCESS TO E-BOOKS AND AUDIOBOOKS**

WHEREAS, Ohio's public libraries have the highest use per capita in the nation and serve more than 8.4 million individuals; and

WHEREAS, More than 1 million people in Ohio live below the poverty line which makes eBooks an unaffordable luxury, and rely on libraries to provide them with e-content to support acquisition of literacy skills, complete school assignments, and pursue interests; and

WHEREAS, The "Community Reading Event Impact Report," released by the Panorama Project has shown that access to eBooks through libraries has led to increased eBook sales; and

WHEREAS, Major publishers have announced new policies for eBooks and eAudiobooks that severely limit public libraries' ability to purchase, or delays the purchase of, digital copies of materials and information; and

WHEREAS, These restrictive policies directly impact the ability of Ohio's public libraries to serve the 11.7 million people of Ohio and adequately provide access to materials and information; and

WHEREAS, The new eBook and eAudiobook policies represent a significant financial burden impacting taxpayer-supported public libraries' overall operations and services. Cleveland Public Library expended more than \$1,000,000 in 2018 on eBooks and eAudiobooks; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That on this day of August 29, 2019, the Board of Trustees of the Cleveland Public Library calls upon Blackstone Audio, Hachette, Macmillan, and Simon & Schuster to: 1) reconsider these recently announced restrictive policies; and 2) engage in a meaningful and direct dialogue and exchange of information with libraries, library consortia, library associations, authors, executives from Amazon, Overdrive, and other relevant stakeholders for the purpose of devising new policies that ensure equitable access to Ohio's 8.4 million library users.