



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES STAFF REPORT

August 17, 2026
Agenda Item No. 7

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

FROM: Library Services Department
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PREPARED BY: Melissa Hartson, Library Services Director

TITLE: Expressive Use Areas Policy (NBPL 9)

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board of Library Trustees review and accept revisions to Library Policy NBPL 9, *Expressive Use Areas*.

DISCUSSION:

A public library is inherently a marketplace of ideas, and Newport Beach Public Library (Library) encourages and protects the rights of members of the public to express divergent viewpoints and opinions on matters of concern. At the same time, the Library expects that persons engaging in expressive activity will demonstrate civility, concern for the safety of persons and property, respect for Library activities and for those who may disagree with their message, and compliance with Library Policy NBPL 1, *Library Use Policy*. The purpose of Library Policy NBPL 9, *Expressive Use Areas*, is to provide for expressive activity to be conducted on the grounds of the Library in a manner consistent with these principles.

Staff recommends adding language that determines the availability of the space and limiting the number of individuals or organizations using the space at a time. Additionally, staff refreshed the exhibits to bring a more consistent design that illustrates each Expressive Use Area Location. Of note, the designated Balboa Expressive Use Area, Exhibit C, applies to the configuration of the previous building. Staff will update Exhibit C and present it to the Board of Library Trustees as construction of the new facility progresses and the outdoor space is developed.

NOTICING:

This agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the Board of Library Trustees considers the item).

ATTACHMENT A – Library Policy NBPL 9, *Expressive Use Areas* – original
ATTACHMENT B – Central Library Expressive Use Area, Lower Level, Exhibit A – original
ATTACHMENT C – Central Library Expressive Use Area, Upper Level, Exhibit A2 – original
ATTACHMENT D – Mariners Branch Library Expressive Use Area, Exhibit B – original

ATTACHMENT E – Balboa Branch Library Expressive Use Area, Exhibit C – original
ATTACHMENT F – Corona del Mar Branch Library Expressive Use Area, Exhibit D – original
ATTACHMENT G – Library Policy NBPL 9, *Expressive Use Areas* – red-lined
ATTACHMENT H – Library Policy NBPL 9, *Expressive Use Areas* – final
ATTACHMENT I – Central Library Expressive Use Area, Lower Level, Exhibit A – final
ATTACHMENT J – Central Library Expressive Use Area, Upper Level, Exhibit A2 – final
ATTACHMENT K – Mariners Branch Library Expressive Use Area, Exhibit B – final
ATTACHMENT L – Balboa Branch Library Expressive Use Area, Exhibit C – final
ATTACHMENT M – Corona del Mar Branch Library Expressive Use Area, Exhibit D – final