

Library Decoration and Display Policy

(2/17/05)

WHEREAS, the library functions as an intellectual and cultural resource for the community and holiday exhibits and decorations are a means through which the public can share experiences, appreciate special interests and celebrate the diversity of the community, and

WHEREAS, in light of the legal opinions offered by several law firms, including the library's legal counsel that it is permissible to create multicultural displays that include the various religions that celebrate holidays throughout the year, as long as the dominant theme or character of the display is secular and the decorations used have a secular meaning (see attached legal opinions), and

WHEREAS, it is permissible to create displays showing secular seasonal holiday symbols such as Christmas trees, menorahs, and Kwanzaa candle holders in the interest of fostering understanding and respect for the rights of all individuals regarding their beliefs, values and customs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Harborfields Public Library permit the display of decorations and art work containing secular seasonal holiday symbols reflecting the different beliefs and customs of the community, with the understanding that such displays are temporary and do not promote a particular religion but rather, reflect the diversity of beliefs and customs celebrated seasonally through the year.