
Library Citizen's Advisory Committee public comment

From Li Ken <lkkphl@gmail.com>

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To praizer34@gmail.com <praizer34@gmail.com>; Mdemp1776ctzn@gmail.com <Mdemp1776ctzn@gmail.com>; nbertelssutton@hotmail.com <nbertelssutton@hotmail.com>; Bruce.Alan.Owens@gmail.com <Bruce.Alan.Owens@gmail.com>; espalin03@yahoo.com <espalin03@yahoo.com>; revranwife@gmail.com <revranwife@gmail.com>; Nan Potts <npotts52@gmail.com>; amalone@reagan.com <amalone@reagan.com>; Sarah Thomas <sarah.thomas@matsugov.us>; Hugh Leslie <hugh.leslie@matsugov.us>; Edna.Devries@matsu.gove.us <Edna.Devries@matsu.gove.us>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Members of the Library Citizen's Advisory Committee, Support Staff, and Mayor DeVries,

I am unable to attend the meeting tonight so I'm submitting my testimony via email.

Diversity is a factual reality of our community. As such, our **public** libraries and **any** citizen committee ought to reflect the actual diversity of our community. The Library Citizen's Advisory Committee does not reflect the diversity of our community.

This committee has claimed it is not banning books and is only trying to save the tax payers money, but this is inaccurate and misleading.

If the committee votes to remove a book from the library, the committee is in effect, voting to **ban** it from the library which denies **free** access to it.

The **attempt to avoid culpability** for banning books from the library by saying that the book is available elsewhere ignores the fundamental nature of a **public** library which makes books **freely available to everyone**.

Attempting to justifying a ban with the excuse that the book is available elsewhere **advocates the antiquated idea** that some books should only be available to those who can afford them and **this violates the primary reason public libraries exist**.

This committee is not capable of determining whether or not a book has literary, artistic, political, scientific, or entertainment value **to the many diverse members** of our community.

Librarians, with their formal education, professional expertise, and **unique knowledge of our diverse reading community** are the best qualified to make these decisions for our community.

This citizens' library committee is not only unnecessary, it is squandering tax payer time and money, and ought to be disbanded so librarians can do their job unfettered.

Thank you.
Lisa Kennedy