

Date: 14 November, 2022

To: Homer Library Advisory Board

From: John P. Calhoun

RE: Agenda Item 10C. Library Director's Decision Regarding Children and Young Adult Material

As a parent, grandparent, and great-grandparent I take exception with this decision. Issues regarding sexual education including sexual orientation and choices are matters between a parent and their child especially in their formative years.

Parents are given the responsibility of raising children. Serious and sensitive issues need to be presented by parents who have a grasp of the maturity and the understanding of the individual child. Furthermore, if a parent does not want their children exposed to other people's views on sexuality it is their decision, not the government's. Many parents' moral values differ from that of LGBTQ lifestyles. Again, exposure to and discussion of these lifestyles should be parental decisions, not the government's.

The government restricts the sale of firearms to minors because they are concerned younger people do not have the maturity firearm ownership dictates. However, the government has no problem with a parent purchasing a firearm and teaching their child to shoot.

In the matter of children's books regarding sexuality and alternate lifestyles, I feel the same discretion should be used by our local government. Presenting mature matter to immature minds without the parental guidance is irresponsible government at its worst.

I request the Homer Library Advisory Board ask the director to place these types of books in their appropriate adult section.

Submission information

Form: [Submit Written Testimony for Commission and Board Meetings](#) [1]  
Submitted by Visitor (not verified)  
Tue, 11/15/2022 - 3:11pm  
162.142.118.16

**First Name** Holly  
**Last Name** Brennan  
**Email** hollyfromhomer@gmail.com  
**Phone Number**  
**Are You A City or Non-City Resident?** City Resident

**Which commission/board meeting do you want to attend?** Library Advisory Board

**What is the type of meeting you want to participate in?** Regular Meeting

**Date of Meeting you want to participate in?** Tue, 11/15

**What type of comments will you be giving?**

Public Comments - Citizen may comment on regular agenda items not scheduled for public hearing or Plat Considerations (Planning Commission only) such as Consent Agenda items, Minutes, Reports, Pending Business, New Business, and Informational Materials.

**Written Testimony**

I am writing to support the Homer Public Library staff in upholding an extremely important and core value of public libraries: freedom of information. There should be no censorship of books deemed offensive by individuals (which includes special labeling or separate locations). I could go on and on and on, but this is really simple. Public libraries are for all, and no one gets to say what can and can't be there. The professionals who work at our wonderful Homer Public Library alone should determine the best location for resources, using the Library Bill of Rights as a guide. "Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment." Simple as that. Thank you to all those awesome people at the library who are having to deal with the extra workload associated with the current challenge. You are awesome.

**Electronic Signature**

Holly Brennan

I understand that checking this box constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and agree that I am the person identified above and that I acknowledge and agree to the above Terms of Acceptance.

**Source URL:** <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/node/60481/submission/50087>

**Links**

[1] <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/submit-written-testimony-commission-and-board-meetings>

Submission information

Form: [Submit Written Testimony for Commission and Board Meetings](#) [1]  
Submitted by Visitor (not verified)  
Tue, 11/15/2022 - 2:30pm  
146.71.69.32

**First Name** Libby  
**Last Name** Bushell  
**Email** libbybushell@gmail.com  
**Phone Number** 9073994694  
**Are You A City or Non-City Resident?** City Resident

**Which commission/board meeting do you want to attend?** Library Advisory Board

**What is the type of meeting you want to participate in?** Regular Meeting

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**Written Testimony**

I support the Homer Public Library Director's decision in full, to leave children's books in the children's library.

Knowledge is power. The Public Library's role is to be a place of free exchange of ideas. To limit those ideas in order to appease the sensitive ideologies of certain religious groups disempowers our youth.

I believe that our youth are not so fragile that they will be "indoctrinated" by views that don't align with their own. Rather, by having access to stories from a perspective outside their own, they might learn compassion and empathy. They might not be so afraid to encounter people from other backgrounds. They might learn to build bridges and share ideas, rather than to build walls and ban books. They might find community.

I do not support the banning of any books.

Sincerely,

Libby B Bushell

Citizen of Homer, Alaska since 1985

**Electronic Signature**

Libby B Bushell

I understand that checking this box constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and agree that I am the person identified above and that I acknowledge and agree to the above Terms of Acceptance.

**Source URL:** <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/node/60481/submission/50086>

**Links**

[1] <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/submit-written-testimony-commission-and-board-meetings>

Submission information

Form: [Submit Written Testimony for Commission and Board Meetings](#) [1]  
Submitted by Visitor (not verified)  
Tue, 11/15/2022 - 1:07pm  
209.112.145.45

**First Name** kathryn  
**Last Name** carssow  
**Email** kcarssow@live.com  
**Phone Number** 19073993738  
**Are You A City or Non-City Resident?** City Resident

**Which commission/board meeting do you want to attend?** Library Advisory Board

**What is the type of meeting you want to participate in?** Regular Meeting

**Date of Meeting you want to participate in?** Tue, 11/15

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**Written Testimony**

Thank you, members of the Library Advisory Board, for your commitment to preserving and improving the quality of our library.

With regard to selecting books on our library shelves, I appreciate and have full confidence in our library staff. As a concerned grandparent, I support our library policies for ensuring the breadth and quality of literature available to children, young adults and their parents. I oppose any actions that hurtfully marginalize any individuals or families in our community, especially our youth.

I am comfortable with the control parents now have over the materials their children access on our library shelves. It is critical that this control not be jeopardized by those who wish to censor what other families read.

**Electronic Signature**

Kathryn Carssow

I understand that checking this box constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and agree that I am the person identified above and that I acknowledge and agree to the above Terms of Acceptance.

**Source URL:** <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/node/60481/submission/50082>

**Links**

[1] <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/submit-written-testimony-commission-and-board-meetings>

Submission information

Form: [Submit Written Testimony for Commission and Board Meetings](#) [1]  
Submitted by Visitor (not verified)  
Tue, 11/15/2022 - 4:46pm  
162.142.118.16

**First Name** Kim  
**Last Name** Fine  
**Email** alela@horizonsatellite.com  
**Phone Number** 9073995356  
**Are You A City or Non-City Resident?** Non-City Resident

**Which commission/board meeting do you want to attend?** Library Advisory Board

**What is the type of meeting you want to participate in?** Regular Meeting

**Date of Meeting you want to participate in?** Tue, 11/15

**What type of comments will you be giving?**

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**Written Testimony**

Public libraries...

Open to all, free for all

Safe spaces for the joy of learning and discovery

Forums for information and ideas

Committed to inclusivity and respect for diversity

The above virtues of essentially all public libraries is beautifully represented in Homer Public Library's very own mission statement.

To serve the diverse needs of our community members by providing access to information, promoting literacy, and facilitating lifelong learning.

Tonight, I ask for the Library Advisory Board to stay true to the above mission statement and its commitment to serving the diverse needs of our community members.

The petition to ban or move books from the children's section of the Homer Public Library represents excessive control over what is available to all families and goes directly counter to the Library Advisory Board's own Collection Development Policies.

I fully support the Library Advisory Board's policies and have the utmost respect and confidence in the library's trained staff to curate and share reliable knowledge and books.

With these solid and sound library policies already in place, I respectfully ask the board to uphold Library Director Dave Berry's decision to keep the books in question in their present location in the library.

Thank you,

Kim Fine

**Electronic Signature**

Fine

I understand that checking this box constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and agree that I am the person identified above and that I acknowledge and agree to the above Terms of Acceptance.

**Source URL:** <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/node/60481/submission/50089>

**Links**

[1] <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/submit-written-testimony-commission-and-board-meetings>

Submission information

Form: [Submit Written Testimony for Commission and Board Meetings](#) [1]  
Submitted by Visitor (not verified)  
Tue, 11/15/2022 - 4:01pm  
166.198.34.129

**First Name** Markus  
**Last Name** Fuhrman  
**Email** dj.grimm.x3x@gmail.com  
**Phone Number** 907 435 1246  
**Are You A City or Non-City Resident?** City Resident

**Which commission/board meeting do you want to attend?** Library Advisory Board  
**What is the type of meeting you want to participate in?** Special Meeting (if scheduled)  
**Date of Meeting you want to participate in?** Tue, 11/15  
**What type of comments will you be giving?**  
Comments of the Audience - Citizens may comment on any topic.

**Written Testimony**

My name is markus im 16 and im transgender I believe that LGBTQ people deserved to have their voice heard in written literature At the public library it would be unfair if people who are biased got to take away books from LGBTQ youth who are trying to learn who they are thank you

**Electronic Signature**

Markus fuhrman

I understand that checking this box constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and agree that I am the person identified above and that I acknowledge and agree to the above Terms of Acceptance.

**Source URL:** <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/node/60481/submission/50088>

**Links**

[1] <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/submit-written-testimony-commission-and-board-meetings>

Submission information

Form: [Submit Written Testimony for Commission and Board Meetings](#) [1]  
Submitted by Visitor (not verified)  
Tue, 11/15/2022 - 2:21pm  
216.67.10.253

**First Name** Steve  
**Last Name** Gibson  
**Email** gibsons@alaska.net  
**Phone Number** 9072881227  
**Are You A City or Non-City Resident?** City Resident

**Which commission/board meeting do you want to attend?** Library Advisory Board

**What is the type of meeting you want to participate in?** Regular Meeting

**Date of Meeting you want to participate in?** Tue, 11/15

**What type of comments will you be giving?**

Public Hearings - Citizens may comment on items scheduled for public hearing when the Presiding Officer opens the Public Hearing.

**Public Hearing Agenda Item:** Petition to censor book access to young readers

**Written Testimony**

It is my hope that you do not constrain the approval process of the Library in their selection of books for different age access. In addition, I feel the petitioners' request is contrary to the important function of our library's welcoming and exploratory foundation. The younger people ought to have the ability to learn of the broadest freedoms in discovery of new materials that are age appropriate; it would be poor policy to restrict children to learning of only Shia beliefs in a Sunni dominated country and vice-versa. Mores change, as once upon a time prevalent thought was that only men had the mind to vote--and only white men at that. LGBTQ+ are important aspects of life in advanced civilization and denial of the availability of its existence does no service to our young. Thanks for your consideration of my thoughts.

**Electronic Signature**

Steve Gibson

I understand that checking this box constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and agree that I am the person identified above and that I acknowledge and agree to the above Terms of Acceptance.

**Source URL:** <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/node/60481/submission/50085>

**Links**

[1] <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/submit-written-testimony-commission-and-board-meetings>

Submission information

Form: [Submit Written Testimony for Commission and Board Meetings](#) [1]  
Submitted by Visitor (not verified)  
Tue, 11/15/2022 - 1:23pm  
65.74.107.23

**First Name** MICHAEL  
**Last Name** HAWFIELD  
**Email** MCHAWFIELD@ALASKA.EDU  
**Phone Number** 9072990290  
**Are You A City or Non-City Resident?** City Resident

**Which commission/board meeting do you want to attend?** Library Advisory Board

**What is the type of meeting you want to participate in?** Regular Meeting

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**Written Testimony**

Regarding the need for full and complete access to any and all collections in the Homer Public Library, my family has absolute confidence in our library staff and we fully support the Library's robust and deeply thought-out policies ensuring open and uncensored collections. Library policy and Library staff ensure that parents have full control over the materials their children access in Library collections. Exercising censorship over our public library collections is overreach and unacceptable. Further, we firmly oppose all efforts to stigmatize or marginalize our neighbors and fellow citizens of Homer. There is no compelling reason to alter or modify the excellent policies of the Homer Public Library.

**Electronic Signature**

Michael C Hawfield

I understand that checking this box constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and agree that I am the person identified above and that I acknowledge and agree to the above Terms of Acceptance.

**Source URL:** <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/node/60481/submission/50083>

**Links**

[1] <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/submit-written-testimony-commission-and-board-meetings>



## Rachel Tussey

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**From:** Melissa Jacobsen  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2022 3:38 PM  
**To:** Rachel Tussey  
**Subject:** Fwd: Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Keri Keller <mskeripoppins@gmail.com>  
**Date:** November 15, 2022 at 2:04:01 PM AKST  
**To:** Department Clerk <clerk@ci.homer.ak.us>  
**Subject:** **Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting**

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To whom it may concern, in regard to LGBTQ books in the children's section of our Homer, AK public library:

Books like these teach confidence, inclusion and appreciation for all and help to create a more loving community at home today and beyond tomorrow. Please continue to include these books for children to explore the wide beautiful world of diversity, with safety and support, at their own public library.

Kind regards,  
Keri Keller

Submission information

Form: [Submit Written Testimony for Commission and Board Meetings](#) [1]  
Submitted by Visitor (not verified)  
Tue, 11/15/2022 - 4:59pm  
65.74.105.239

**First Name** Mary Lou  
**Last Name** Kelsey  
**Email** mlkelsey53@gmail.com  
**Phone Number** 9072991985  
**Are You A City or Non-City Resident?** City Resident

**Which commission/board meeting do you want to attend?** Library Advisory Board

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**Written Testimony**

I support the current City of Homer Collection Development Policy and reject the idea of banning books.

**Electronic Signature**

Mary Lou Kelsey

I understand that checking this box constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and agree that I am the person identified above and that I acknowledge and agree to the above Terms of Acceptance.

**Source URL:** <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/node/60481/submission/50090>

**Links**

[1] <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/submit-written-testimony-commission-and-board-meetings>

## Rachel Tussey

---

**From:** Melissa Jacobsen  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2022 3:38 PM  
**To:** Rachel Tussey  
**Subject:** Fwd: Regarding Nov 15 LAB meeting

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jim Lavrakas <jlav@gci.net>  
**Date:** November 15, 2022 at 1:54:10 PM AKST  
**To:** Department Clerk <clerk@ci.homer.ak.us>  
**Subject: Regarding Nov 15 LAB meeting**

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To the Homer Library Advisory Board,  
We support Director Berry's decision to keep the 41 titles listed by M. Veldstra where they are located in the Children's Section of the library.

+++++

Jim and Ruth Lavrakas  
Homer, AK 99603  
907-299-8393 / cell

## Rachel Tussey

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**From:** Melissa Jacobsen  
**Sent:** Monday, November 14, 2022 4:53 AM  
**To:** Rachel Tussey  
**Subject:** FW: Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting

-----Original Message-----

From: Amanda Lehm <amandalehm623@gmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 9:32 PM  
To: Department Clerk <clerk@ci.homer.ak.us>  
Subject: Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

As a member of the Homer community I am submitting a written testimony in full support of the Library Director's decision to keep children's books in the children's library. Having a diverse library selection is imperative in order to be supportive and inclusive of our diverse community members. If certain books do not appeal to you as a parent/caregiver than monitor what your children are reading - this is not the responsibility of the library nor should the rest of the library goers suffer the loss of wonderful and enjoyable children's books. Thank you for your time,  
Mandy Lehm

Submission information

Form: [Submit Written Testimony for Commission and Board Meetings](#) [1]  
Submitted by Visitor (not verified)  
Tue, 11/15/2022 - 1:49pm  
104.254.226.102

**First Name** sharon  
**Last Name** Roufa  
**Email** sharonybaloney@gmail.com  
**Phone Number** 9072996626  
**Are You A City or Non-City Resident?** City Resident

**Which commission/board meeting do you want to attend?** Library Advisory Board

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**Written Testimony**

I support the Homer Public Library director. Nobody has the right to use the government to stigmatize other citizens. They have a right to ban books for themselves, not for the rest of us. If they don't want library books they can stay home.

**Electronic Signature**

Sharon roufa

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**Source URL:** <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/node/60481/submission/50084>

**Links**

[1] <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/submit-written-testimony-commission-and-board-meetings>