



Request for Reconsideration of Materials Policy

The American Library Association believes “the freedom to read is essential to our democracy” and “now as always in our history, reading is among our greatest freedoms”

(<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement>). The Livonia Public Library regularly reviews comments and suggestions regarding the continued appropriateness of materials, resources, and displays. Suggestions will be considered and utilized by the library in the ongoing process of collection development (*refer to [Collection Development Policy](#)*).

Individuals may take issue with library materials that do not support their tastes and views. Staff are available to discuss concerns and identify alternate materials, resources, and displays that may be available. If a patron’s concern is not satisfied through discussion with staff, a formal written request for reconsideration of materials may be submitted to the library director. Copies of this form are available at the circulation desk.

The Livonia Public Library is not a judicial body. Laws governing obscenity, subversive materials, or other questionable matters are subject to interpretation by the courts. Therefore, no challenged material, resource, or display will be removed solely for the complaint of obscenity, or any other category covered by law. No material or resources will be knowingly added to the library collection that has been previously determined to be in non-compliance with local laws.

Challenged materials, resources, or displays that meet the criteria for selection in the materials selection policy of the Livonia Public Library should not be removed under any legal or extra-legal pressure. The Library Bill of Rights

(<http://www.ala.org/files/content/ala/oif/statementspols/statementsif/librarybillrights.htm>) states in Article I that “Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation,” and in Article II, that “Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.” Freedom of expression is protected by the Constitution of the United States, but constitutionally protected expression is often separated from unprotected expression only by a dim and uncertain line. The Constitution requires a procedure designed to focus searchingly on challenged expression before it can be suppressed. An adversary hearing is a part of this procedure.

Therefore, any attempt, be it legal or extra-legal, to regulate or suppress materials, resources, or displays in libraries must be closely scrutinized to the end that protected expression is not abridged.

For a request for reconsideration to be deliberated, this form must be completed in full. The patron submitting the request must be a resident of the chartered area served by the Livonia Public Library and hold a valid borrower’s card. The director will present the request to the library board of trustees at the next scheduled board of trustees meeting. The board will review and respond in writing within thirty days of receipt to the patron’s request for reconsideration. The response will indicate the action to be taken and reasons for or against the request. An item will only be evaluated for reconsideration once in a twelve-month period.



Request for Reconsideration of Materials Form

Date _____

Patron's Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Do you represent: self? ____ Organization? ____

1. Resource on which you are commenting:

____ Print ____ Video ____ Magazine ____ Audio Recording ____ Newspaper

____ Electronic information/network

____ Other _____

Title _____

Author/Producer _____

2. What brought this resource to your attention?

3. a. Have you examined/read the entire resource? Yes _____ No _____

b. If you have only read part of the resource you're objecting to, what parts did you read? Please specify pages, sections, etc. 4. What concerns you about the resource? (use other side or additional pages if necessary)

5. Are you aware of any expert professional reviews of this material?

6. Are there resource(s) you suggest to provide additional information and/or other viewpoints on this topic?

Date received by library director _____



Revised by the American Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee: June 27, 1995

Approved by:

Livonia Public Library Board of Trustees

Amended: August 13, 2024