

April 28, 2023

Library Advisory Board  
Anchorage Public Library  
3600 Denali Street  
Anchorage, AK 99503

To: The Library Advisory Board members,

In response to the Request for Reconsideration submitted on March 20, 2023, that was denied by the anonymous Ad Hoc committee of librarians on April 11, 2023, and an appeal delivered to the library director on April 11, 2023, please accept this escalated appeal in accordance with the APL Request for Reconsideration process.

I agree with the library director when she stated in her decision that “Public libraries serve the entire community,...” and “The responsibility for the reading, viewing, and listening choices of minors rest with their parents or legal guardians.” However, I disagree with the director and the Ad Hoc librarian committee when they state “the library believes that individuals may reject for themselves and their children—and only their children—materials which they find unsuitable.” By their reasoning, they are making the assumption that minors are always supervised by their parents/guardians while utilizing the library or online services. And yet, according to the APL Library Code of Conduct, “Children between the age of 8 and 13 may be at the library unattended...” and “Youth, age 14 and older may be at the library unattended or act as the supervisor for younger children...”

They have also failed to address that “Parents/guardians may be given the titles of books their minor children have borrowed **only** for the purpose of retrieving overdue materials...” (APL Confidentiality of Library Records Policy) Parents are **not allowed** to inquire otherwise.

Because minor children have unfettered access to the library stack and online collection, minor children therefore have access to the book “Let’s Talk About It” without parental consent. This access is inappropriate and may be against Anchorage Municipal Code.

AMC 8.50.040 D. States: *“It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly produce, publish, **distribute**, sell or **disseminate** any film, photograph, negative, slide, **book**, audiotape or magazine or other printed, visual, or audio medium if such person knows or has reason to know that such works are or containing **graphic representations**, films, photographs, negatives, or slides that depict a minor engaged in nudity, sexual excitement or sexual conduct in a patently offensive way and if: 1. The average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest; and 2. The work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.”*

I request the Library Advisory Board review the entire book "Let's Talk About It" by graphic artists Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan. It is clearly directed at minors under the age of 18, as displayed on the cover of the book, "The Teen's Guide to Sex, Relationships and Being a Human." I disagree that it is safely or appropriately catalogued in the Young Adult/Teen collection, and request that it be moved where minors will not have access.

Additionally, the Request for Reconsideration process was jeopardized by the release of my personal information to include: Name, Home address, Personal E-mail address, and Library card number publicized on the APL website. To date I have not received an apology or explanation of why this occurred. It was against State Statute AS 40.25.140 and the APL Policy: Confidentiality of Library Records and Customer Files. Incendiary, incorrect information was spread which prevented civil discourse and will discourage library patrons from completing the Request process in the future.

Protecting childhood innocence,

Mrs. Sami Graham, MS, MEd