



March 6, 2023

Mayor and City Council  
City of Tyler

Honorable Mayor Don Warren  
Honorable City Council:  
Stuart Hene, District 1, Central  
Broderick McGee, District 2, West  
Shirley McKellar, District 3, Northwest  
James Wynne, District 4, Northeast  
Bob Westbrook, District 5, East  
Brad Curtis, District 6, South  
Presumptive "Elected" Councilman Lloyd Nichols, District 5, East

Mayor and Council:

For well over a year, members of Grassroots America -- We the People have collaborated quietly with City of Tyler Councilmen Hene and Wynne, providing information and examples of offensive, obscene and inappropriate publications in the children and teen sections of the Tyler Public Library. The goal was to assemble FACTS and from those FACTS develop policy initiatives that would conform the library's policies and procedures with community standards. Witnessing outraged parents and taxpayers attempting to petition the Library Advisory Board to hear and act on reasonable grievances, concerns, and requests to remove particularly egregious examples of smut from the children and teen sections-should compel anyone in authority to act. The time has come to elevate this to the entire Tyler City Council.

The following timeline will drive home the FACT that this is NOT a knee-jerk response, but a thoroughly researched and carefully documented study that we presented to two council members over four workshops.

- December 12, 2021 – Presented an Executive Summary to Councilman Hene in person and later briefed Councilman Wynne, outlining the scope of the problem with age-inappropriate materials in the library.
- June 19, 2022 – Presented a comprehensive seventy-five-page study to Councilmen Hene and Wynne documenting the policy and operational problems contributing to the acquisition and display of inappropriate materials and political bias in publication lists.
- August 13, 2022 – Presented an additional detailed study on Library Operations and Community Standards to Councilmen Hene and Wynne. Included was documentation

on purchasing procedures that bundle inappropriate materials without staff curation and the pervasive influence of Marxist ideology permeating the American Library Association (ALA) and the Texas Library Association.

- November 2, 2022 – A final report was presented to Councilmen Hene and Wynne summarizing the extensive documentation on age-inappropriate and biased content, the recommendation to replace ALA with the Texas State Library and Archive Commission certification, and several budget, operational, and management issues. **The report concluded with six specific action items we recommended the city implement.**

In the four months since the November meeting, no progress has been made. We continue to receive from outraged citizens shocking reviews of books readily accessible to children. These books contain blatant pornography, sexual deviancy, and pedophilia that rape the minds of children and normalize behavior that promotes utter degradation of our culture and reduces human sexuality to soul-eating animalistic acts. The bastardizing of childhood innocence with smut purchased with tax dollars in a taxpayer-funded city facility must stop. It is now time to move past any interaction with city staff and move on to where the buck stops – with the elected city officials.

**Failure to act is to act.** We do not believe Tyler's City Council condones the sexualization of children with the material you have all received via citizen book reviews. **We think better of you!**

You know and we know that if any member of the Tyler City Council offered this smut to a child on the Downtown Square or in a City Park they could be arrested. If it were not for a state legislative loophole, everyone here responsible for acquiring and distributing this smut could be held culpable. But whether you are legally culpable, you are still accountable to the voters and, most importantly, to our God for how you protect minor children.

We strongly request this issue be placed on an evening Council agenda. An official town hall meeting with the full Council should be called as soon as possible during the month of March so that you – as elected officials – can hear directly from the public on these matters at a time when citizens who wish to participate are not disenfranchised from participation due to work schedules. Subsequently, parents and taxpayers will expect members of this Council to clearly articulate your position and what actions you will take to clean up our library.

Please be advised that it is the intention of Grassroots America **to make public** the following recommended actions and the full studies we previously provided to Councilmen Hene and Wynne. You will find copies of our studies, which back up our strong recommendations listed below, included in your packet with this letter:

1. Designate TSLAC as the primary certification and accreditation organization and expunge all references to and association with ALA.
2. Update Policy Manual to provide clear community standards guidance on age-inappropriate, obscene, pervasively vulgar materials, political bias, and CRT.

3. Implement procedures to post and receive public comments on books before issuing purchase orders and eliminate "bundling" by publishers to prevent new violations of community standards.
4. Audit the Children and Teen sections to find and eliminate existing materials that do not meet community standards.
5. Sequester the 18% increase in the FY2023 operating budget and conduct an operational efficiency audit of the Tyler Public Library, requiring staff to prove their productivity stats.
6. Require periodic (quarterly) public reports to City Council on the remediation status of known operational deficiencies and policy corrections.

Please advise us as soon as possible regarding the date of your March evening town hall meeting in which you will engage with the public on how to best protect children from harmful library material.

Respectfully,



JoAnn Fleming  
Executive Director  
Grassroots America We the People



Thomas Fabry  
Chairman – Government Watchdog Committee  
Grassroots America We the People

*This graphic provides a visual representation of the multiple fact-based reports presented to selected City Councilmen in the four meetings listed above. Soft copies of these reports and presentations representing hundreds of pages of documentation are on the flash drive included with this letter.*

