

JUN 2023

In a letter dated June 30, 2023 to the city manager, a patron asked about the options for restrictions to youth accounts so they can't check out sexually explicit material.

Based on the letter, the restrictions appear to apply only if a) the parents had the option to use that restriction and b) the restriction would appear if the child attempted to check out Adult rated books.

Pretending this optional 'restricted account' method will assist parents in protecting them from sexually explicit books simply won't work.

Why? Because the sexually explicit books are in the YOUNG ADULT section, not the Adult section.

No restrictions apply to the YA books.

Also, parents only renew their library cards every 3 years. So most will not even know this exists, even if it did actually work.

We need a TEEN section. 

Using Software to Restrict Minors 'Checkout Privileges'

In a letter from Ed Broussard to Robin Lee, dated June 30th, Mr. Broussard informs the patron of the "option for restrictions to youth accounts." Based on this letter, this restriction appears to apply only if a child attempts to check out books from the adult section and if the parent has indicated when filling out the Library Card form.

Mr. Broussard's letter indicates that the optional 'restriction account' method will 'assist parents.' This claim seems disingenuous **because these pervasively vulgar and sexually explicit materials actually reside in the children and teen section of the Tyler Public Library.** Until these books are removed from the minors' sections, this problem remains.

Contrary to the statement in Paragraph 4 that 'our **Library Director has been responsive to the concerns brought forward by you and others in recent months**' is the fact that these books are still in the children's sections.

When most unsuspecting parents are presented with an option to 'restrict' their child's checkout privileges their answer would likely be 'no'.

Merely moving this ambiguous question further toward the top of the form accomplishes nothing toward protecting our children from easy access to sexually explicit, graphic books.

We agree with Mr. Broussard's statement that "Parents have the right and responsibility to guide their children's reading." **Parents also have every right to expect the books placed in the minors' sections of the library are free of lewd, lascivious or obscene content.** For generations American parents have believed that the library is a safe place to bring their children. Most are completely unaware of the lewd, vulgar pictures and language to which their child has easy access thanks to the Tyler Public Library's Director. Parents can't realistically be expected to read every book their children chooses and to pretend otherwise is dishonest.

Email from GAWTO to Mayor Warren dated March 21, 2022

FYI - email to Don Warren

Yahoo/Inbox ☆



JoAnn Fleming <jafleming3@juno.com>
To: tcfabry@yahoo.com, tonifabry@yahoo.com



Tue, Mar 21 at 2:12 PM ☆

Request for Reply

From: JoAnn Fleming <jafleming3@juno.com>

To: dwarren@tylertexas.com

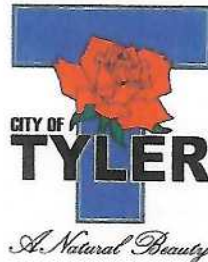
Sent: Mon, Mar 20, 2023 02:34 PM

Mayor Warren, as presiding Chair of the Tyler City Council, we ask you for a reply to our letter (in reference to the Tyler Public Library), which was hand-delivered with supporting documentation to the Council on Wednesday, March 8, 2023.

Thank you,

JoAnn Fleming
Executive Director
Grassroots America - We the People PAC

Donald P. Warren
Mayor



The City of Tyler
City Manager's Office
P.O. Box 2039
Tyler, Texas 75710-2039

Phone: (903) 531-1253
Fax: (903) 531-1166
www.cityoftyler.org

March 21, 2023

Dear Tom and JoAnn,

I have reviewed your letter and thank you for your interest in the Tyler Public Library. Councilmen Hene and Wynne, as well as City staff, have been responsive to the concerns brought forward by you in recent months. The questions and requests outlined in your letter were previously addressed with you by both Councilmembers, the Library Board, and staff. This resulted in updates to the Library application card to make it easier for parents to restrict access for their children. ↙

Furthermore, the Tyler Public Library has an open and transparent process for book reconsideration. In fact, some of the book titles submitted for reconsideration request have been moved to the adult section of the Library. *(only because they were caught red-handed by us!)* ←

These same issues continue to be brought forward by you with no acknowledgment of the aforementioned public processes or changes made. I am satisfied with the responses of the Tyler Public Library Board and the work that City Councilmembers and staff have done to address your concerns and preserve the Tyler philosophy of limited government. I consider this matter handled appropriately.

Kindest Regards,

Donald P. Warren
Mayor, Tyler



March 27, 2023

Honorable Mayor Don Warren

City of Tyler

Thank you for your letter of March 21st. You assert that the city has been responsive to the concerns that Grassroots America has been documenting for the last year. You further assert that the changes made to the library card application form will restrict children's access to age-inappropriate materials. That claim is false – we presented multiple scenarios which debunked the "fix." These were also provided in writing to Councilmen Hene and Wynne. Moreover, your letter completely ignored the extensive list of major issues that have been carefully, painstakingly documented in the hundreds of pages of research. These issues had been presented to Councilmen Hene and Wynne and were included in the letter and flash drive which you and each City Council received on March 8th.

Near the end of the above referenced letter, we provided a list of six areas of concern. Those six were defined as key items for the public and elected officials to discuss at the public hearing we are requesting. These six represented the broad categories of issues and weren't intended to itemize the detailed list of problems that need addressing. After a year of meetings with Councilmen Hene and Wynne, it is reasonable to expect the specific requests we'd carefully documented would have been communicated, acted upon, and then communicated back to us with the same spirit of open dialogue with which they were presented. This did not happen!

To ensure there is no misunderstanding about the range and depth of the problems presented and discussed over multiple meetings, we are attaching the enclosed matrix for your review. This document itemizes the request, the date(s) they were reviewed, further explanation if appropriate and the actions taken by the city, if any that we have observed.

Our request for a public hearing on these issues still stands.

Respectfully,

JoAnn Fleming

Executive Director

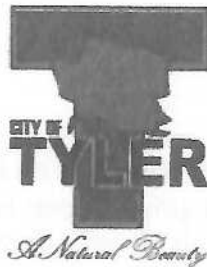
Grassroots America We the People

Thomas Fabry

Chairman – Government Watchdog Committee

Grassroots America We the People

Edward A. Broussard
City Manager



The City of Tyler
City Manager's Office
P.O. Box 2039
Tyler, Texas 75710-2039

Phone: (903) 531-1253
Fax: (903) 531-1166
www.cityoftyler.org

June 30, 2022

Robin Lee
P.O Box 122
Bullard, TX. 75757

Re: Book Appeal

Dear Ms. Lee

Thank you for your strong interest in the Tyler Public Library. As allowed by written Library policies, the Library Board conducted a public hearing to consider your appeal regarding the graphic novel, *Blue Is The Warmest Color*, which was held at Liberty Hall on June 1, 2022. At that public meeting, the Library voted 5-1 to deny the request to remove the book from the adult section of the Tyler Public Library collection.

Pursuant to the Administrative Appeals Procedure established in Tyler City Code Chapter 1, Article IV., I have reviewed your appeal of the Library Board's ruling issued June 1, 2022. After considering your arguments, it is my official decision pursuant to Tyler City Code Sec. 1-33 to uphold the Library Board's decision to keep the graphic novel, *Blue Is The Warmest Color*, in the adult section of the Tyler Public Library.

The Tyler Public Library serves the entirety of Tyler's citizens while also making memberships available for purchase to those who are not citizens but reside within Smith County. Our overall goal is to develop a well-rounded library collection while remaining compliant with federal court decisions related to Free Speech and the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

At the same time, our Library Director has been responsive to the concerns brought forward by you and others in recent months. As a result of your appeal, citizen comments, and the public meetings held on the topic of content availability to children and youths, our Library staff has begun a review of its public policies including the Circulation Policy, Parental Responsibility Policy, Meeting Space Policy, and the Exhibits and Displays Policy.

The Library has provided assistance to parents for several years by providing an option for restrictions to youth accounts (under 18) and assisting parents in finding the right resources for their families. We currently provide restricted accounts for juvenile and young adult patrons when preferred by the parent or legal guardian. To make parents more aware of this option, we are updating our library card application form to include the question of adding restrictions to the account as follows:

If cardholder is under age 18, do you want to restrict checkout privileges by obtaining a restricted account? Yes ☐ No ☐

When obtaining a restricted account, the youth patron would be prevented by our library system from checking out materials outside of their restrictions. For example, if we have a juvenile restricted account who is restricted to juvenile books and books only, the system would block the youth from checking out these materials even if

they were to use the self-check systems or if a staff member assisting them was not immediately aware of their specific restrictions. Parents have the right and responsibility to guide their children's reading. We hope that through these efforts more parents will avail themselves of this service going forward.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me, for your interest in the community, and for your continuing efforts to improve our Library.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Edward Broussard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Edward A. Broussard
City Manager, Tyler



Tyler Public Library

It is the responsibility of the library card holder to return all books and materials on time and in good condition. I will abide by all library policies, and I understand that if I do not keep a clear account my name may be handed over to a collection agency. This is a free service of your public library for everyone who lives within the city limits.

Cardholder: _____

Print Full Name (as it appears on your ID)

If under 12, name of parent or guardian: _____

Print Name

REQUIRED: Signature of cardholder
(or parent or guardian if under 12): _____

I agree to abide by the Library's rules and regulations.

If cardholder is under age 18, do you want to restrict checkout privileges by obtaining a restricted account? Yes ___ No ___

Home/Physical Address (Not P.O. Box) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Mailing Address (if not the same as above) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ **Date of Birth** _____ **Sex** _____ **Race** _____

e-Mail Address _____

(We only use your e-mail for sending notices about items you place on hold, overdue items, and mailing lists you opt into)

Would you like to receive the Library e-Newsletter (e-mail required) Yes ___ No ___

Would you like to be added to the Friends of the Tyler Public Library email and mailing list?

E-mail: Yes ___ No ___ Mailing: Yes ___ No ___

Where did you hear about us? (Circle One): Social Media Internet Friend or Relative Other _____

Are there any other adults who will be authorized to use this account? If so, please list their full names:

FOR LIBRARY USE ONLY

Driver's License Number

Utility Bill

Other

Staff Initials: _____

Date: _____