



Tyler Public Library | Talking Points

Listed below are talking points that can be used when sending emails, calling city council representatives or setting up meetings with influencers:

Sexually explicit, age-inappropriate materials in the teen and juvenile section

- The library should be a safe place for teens and juveniles to browse without coming across graphic sexual materials, such as *All Boys Aren't Blue* which resides in the teen section today.
- Taxpayer dollars should not be spent on pornographic or explicit material anywhere in the Tyler Public Library.
- Tyler citizens are outraged at the obscene, sexually graphic and vulgar material that is currently shelved in areas of the library where minors have easy access.
- The teen and juvenile section of the library was created for the purpose of reaching an audience of MINORS, not for adults.
- Just because a book is about a child or teen doesn't mean it is suitable for children to read.
- The librarian should be the one who ensures books containing graphic sexual violence, rape, pedophilia and incest are never allowed in the teen or juvenile sections. This is not currently the case at the Tyler Public Library.
- Exposing children to graphic sexual material shows venomous contempt for the child and an utter disregard for their innocence.
- The library is not to be used by the staff as a platform for personal agendas, opinions or preferences that harm children.
- Willfully placing graphic sexual materials to children is a form of sexual grooming and indoctrination.
- There is NEVER a reason to provide pornography to a child.
- Providing pornography to children transforms their mindset and steals their innocence.
- Continuing to purchase sexually offensive materials is a willful, intentional act to violate the mind of a child.
- This library is guilty of providing certain adult erotica books in the teen section for years despite emails from the publishers stating these materials belong in the adult section. If library patrons had not brought this to the attention of the city council, those books *would still be there*.
- The Federal Communications Commission regulates American public airwaves for indecent and profane content between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. when children might be present. They do so because it is against Federal Law to publicly broadcast indecent and profane content that is harmful to children. **Shouldn't children have the same level of protection from harmful content in their public libraries?**



TYLER PUBLIC LIBRARY | PROTECT KIDS CAMPAIGN

While it is important to re-locate individual publications, a **permanent “fix” is necessary.**

This can only be achieved by the Tyler City Council posting an agenda item for public discussion and then taking a subsequent public vote to change city policies to ensure library administrators don't return to bad habits.

Once the Council votes to approve a policy change, the only way to change that policy is with **another public discussion and vote** of the Council to repeal or amend it.

The Council is required by law to post a public notice informing citizens of a scheduled discussion and any subsequent action to repeal or amend any written policy. Public notices inform citizens, giving them a chance to voice opinions, concerns, and positions. **This is essential for a nation founded upon the Liberty Principle “consent of the governed.”**

POLICY AND COLLECTION OBJECTIVES

The PROTECT KIDS CAMPAIGN's objective is to establish a SAFE place for minors by relocating sexually explicit, pervasively vulgar materials to the adult section and prevent future acquisition of such materials for the children and teen section.

Five action items are proposed to accomplish this objective

1. Adopt as Public Library policy the HB900 definitions of unacceptable content in Public Schools.
2. Adopt as policy, the screening/rating methodology promoted by HB900 and require publishers to eliminate all non-conforming materials for sale to the library.
3. Conduct an initial audit of the existing stacks to identify materials in the children and teen sections that are not age-appropriate.
4. Enforce a bi-annual audit of the library catalog to identify and eliminate non-conforming materials.
5. Adopt the TSLAC accreditation and continuing education standards, eliminating ALL association and ties with the ALA/TLA.