

**From:** Rebecca Moorman <rmoorman@alaska.edu>

**To:** Mike Robinson <mrobinson@alaska.edu>

**Cc:** Joy Bailey <jbailey@palmerak.org>, sam\_lisa@asdk12.org

**Subject:** Re: Palmer Public Library - Book challenge

**Date:** Sat, 11 Feb 2023 10:16:06 -0900

**Importance:** Normal

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Hi Joy,

I'm sorry you're facing this. The Watchman is super annoying about riling up reactionaries. I agree with all of Mike's suggestions.

The Office for Intellectual Freedom at ALA is a great resource, with [challenge support](#), information on [how to respond to challenges](#), plus a lot more. They're busy but they're very responsive, and they want to help libraries navigate this disturbing trend.

Be sure and keep in touch so we know how this unfolds, and good luck!

Rebecca

Rebecca Moorman  
Head, Technical Services  
UAA/APU Consortium Library  
University of Alaska Anchorage  
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On Fri, Feb 10, 2023 at 4:04 PM Mike Robinson <mrobinson@alaska.edu> wrote:

I had incorrect email for Lisa so resending.

On Fri, Feb 10, 2023 at 04:00:56PM -0900, Mike Robinson wrote:

> Joy,

>

> First off, let me say I am sorry to hear that you are facing these issues in your library. I've cc'd Rebecca Moorman who is current chair of the AkLA Intellectual Freedom Committee. She is a great resource and can put you in contact with ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom.

>

> I read the article you linked to and then read some reviews of the book. Like you said, it has recieved decent reviews but it is a graphic novel about sex education for teens and some people are really worked up about these issues.

>

> I think its important to get the message out that the library has policies in place to reconsider materials. Its really important that the community/city council/mayor know this.

>

> This challenge is particularly difficult because its pretty obvious the blogger wants to stir up controversy. If you have supporters in the community, you should let them know what's going on. They can show up at council meetings and provide voices to counter this one point of view.

>

> It sounds very similar to what has been happening at Anchorage School District Board meetings, so I have

also cc'd Lisa Sam who is Coordinator for libraries in ASD.

>

> -Mike

>

>

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> On Fri, Feb 10, 2023 at 11:34:52PM +0000, Joy Bailey wrote:

>> Hi Mike,

>>

>> Beth is away from the library for the next several days. She suggested I reach out to you about a book challenge that is unfolding here in Palmer. The book is "Let's talk about it: the teen's guide to sex, relationships, and being human" by Erika Moen. This graphic novel style book has favorable reviews and is marketed for teens 14 and up. We chose to add it to our adult non-fiction collection because the material has adult themes. A local blogger who writes on the Alaska Watchman has written three recent posts on this book, noting which libraries own copies. He has fired up certain community members in Palmer, including some of our city council members. No one has approached the library about this book - yet. Outraged community members are going straight to council on Tuesday evening instead.

>>

>> We do have a recently updated policy regarding material reconsideration requests. Our reconsideration policy involves our city council in no way whatsoever. As such, we are confused about how this is unfolding. We are concerned about council members being vocally on board with the book's removal despite our policy not including them in the reconsideration process. Someone is going to approach us about this very soon and we would like to be as prepared as possible.

>>

>> Do you have any guidance?

>>

>> A link to his most recent blog post on this subject if you are curious.

<https://alaskawatchman.com/2023/02/10/editorial-book-bans-bonfires-depravity-in-alaskas-libraries/>

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>> Thanks for your time,

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>> Joy Bailey, MLS

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