

**From:** [amanda barnes](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Our HB libraries  
**Date:** Sunday, April 7, 2024 2:37:03 PM

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I have lived in Huntington Beach, for over 60 years. I have used our public libraries throughout my life. They always give me a warm inviting place to go and constantly enrich my knowledge. Why change what is so beautifully working? It will not be the same when it is no longer a part of my community.  
Please keep our Public Libraries - Public!  
Amanda Barnes

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Bernadette Vargas](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library Privatization and Censure  
**Date:** Monday, April 8, 2024 12:16:07 PM

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I am an HB resident strongly opposed to the City Council's committee to censure books. My family frequently patronize the library and it is my decision to monitor the books my child reads not the government.

The library's facilities and programs are extremely well run by knowledgeable, professional staff. We oppose any effort to privatize the management and operation of the city's PUBLIC library. This is a money grab and political grandstand by the city council to control intellectual access to information.

Bernadette Vargas  
HB Resident

**From:** [Carol Daus](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** April 10 Commission Meeting Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, April 8, 2024 12:45:22 PM

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Dear Ms. Gomez,

We are strongly opposed to Resolution 20233-41 and Ordinance 4318, Community Parent-Guardian Review Board.

We are strongly opposed to privatization (outsourcing) our public library to a private for-profit corporation.

Please advise the majority City Council to drop their ordinance for the parent-guardian review board. This partisan committee should not be given the responsibility to do what professional librarians are on staff to do--determine what books and materials are accessible for our large diverse community of 197,000. Just because 4 Council Members have opinions about what books should be in the library doesn't mean that they should be allowed to impose their beliefs and religious ideologies onto the rest of the community. As you know, there is strong public opposition against the relocation of puberty and LGBTQ books to the adult section, the review board, and privatization. Why not listen to what the public wants?

Privatization would deeply hurt our library. We have communicated with librarians and volunteers in places like Santa Clarita Public Library, which originally was outsourced to LS&S but then returned to being a public library due to excessive costs from LS&S and poor service. Why tamper with an efficiently run library system like ours that has a rich heritage and is beloved by the community?

Thanks,

Carol and Tony Daus  
residents of HB for 28 years

**From:** [Denise](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Right to Read  
**Date:** Monday, April 8, 2024 10:11:47 AM

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Please let it be known that this Huntington Beach resident is opposed to any form of book banning. Also, I fully support our library and am behind all measures to keep the status quo.

I have also emailed our US Congresspersons.



**Unite  
Against  
Book Bans**

**I CONTACTED  
MY U.S.  
CONGRESSPERSONS**  
*to ask them to stand  
up to censorship.*

**You can take action, too:**  
[bit.ly/RightToReadDay](https://bit.ly/RightToReadDay)

**RIGHT TO READ DAY**  
**APRIL 8, 2024**

Sincerely,  
Denise Sheldon

**From:** [Gene Axelrod](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library Review Board and Privatization  
**Date:** Monday, April 8, 2024 12:07:49 PM

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Please stand firm and continue to resist the war on our libraries across the country and especially here in Huntington Beach.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Isabella Ford](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** City Council Actions Related to Huntington Beach Public Library:  
**Date:** Monday, April 8, 2024 1:01:52 PM

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Hello

This is an email regarding b. Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposals for Managed Library Services

Is there a full list of all our Library services and will the RFP ensure we do not only not lose any of our library services but the RFP should also ensure the library has the ability to expand services to our community as demand changes? I remember when we had budget issues before and the library was not open seven days a week and had very limited hours. The library has expanded exponentially in so many ways I worry that the scope of services will be narrowed significantly if the library management is outsourced so I urge you to ensure the RFP emphasizes ALL library services and that any proposals received explicitly states each service will continue and may expand to more.

If a private company takes over managing the library services, will they continue all programs that exist in the library like Veterans Services, Literacy programs, Story time, Makers Space, Author's Luncheons/teas, summer reading program. Will we still have the used book store and gift store which are my go to whenever I need a gift. Will wifi still be available for students to study, and remote workers to work? Will we still have the seed library? These are just a few of the awesome services I have used, use and hope to use and worry that a private company will not see that as a "Library's function". Will the Library's theater still be the desired venue for shows? Or will ticket prices for those be increased? Will we still be able to rent rooms for Neighborhood Watch meetings for free? Would we be able to resume community programs like the Community Cafe if the library is managed by a private company?

Thanks for listening.

Isabella Ford  
714-308-0660

**From:** [Shammy Dingus](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Outsourcing Control of Library is A VERY BAD IDEA!  
**Date:** Monday, April 8, 2024 12:32:21 PM

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The **FACTS** show that a takeover of our library by a private, for-profit company, IS A VERY BAD IDEA. The council seems to be in a big hurry to decimate resident's services in an effort to cover up the reckless spending they approved over the last year — entering into a \$7 million contract for airshows, increasing the legal department's budget by nearly \$1 million, and arbitrarily choosing to spend \$400,000 simply to place its (purely political) ballot measures on the Primary ballot rather than the General election, where more voters vote and they likely would have failed.

As I understand it, under the proposed takeover of the city's library system (which has been called the "jewel of the city") the city will still own the buildings, and the city would still be required to provide maintenance for all the aging buildings and other infrastructure, plus utilities, and security.

But LS&S, the presumptive new operator, will take over control of the library's entire book collection, deciding which books to purchase or discard — rehire or replace ALL the personnel under their terms, and decide which programs to continue to provide. Huntington Beach has many unique programs which do not fit the LS&S business model.

Our Library System is already managed extraordinarily well! Over the last 9 years, from 2014 to 2023, the TOTAL cost for our libraries has only increased by \$100,000. That's a total of only 2% over NINE YEARS! That's pretty amazing for an award-winning library system!

On the other hand, LS&S contracts increase their fees by at least 2.5% annually. That means our library expense will increase by over \$100,000 EVERY YEAR! Let that sink in. In a few years, the library

budget may require even more money than it does today - and the city will no longer be able to make cuts in it, if needed, because it will be under contract with fixed payments.

In exchange for giving up control over all these people and assets, the city hopes to save up to \$1 million dollars. But that's never going to happen. Not even close. If you had done your due diligence, you would have discovered that already, and picked some other area to make your cuts.

For example, the city would lose the money currently donated by The Friends of the Library — which equals \$250,000 PER YEAR. We would also lose donations from Friends of the Children's Library, equaling \$50,000 PER YEAR. These 501(c)3 organizations are legally prohibited from giving their donations to a for-profit company. So you're starting out with a \$300,000 LOSS as soon as you sign a contract to privatize the library's operations.

In addition, the city would lose the grant money it currently receives and depends on. One example is the \$92,000 Literacy Grant.

So if the city adopts an outsourcing approach, we start off by losing nearly \$400,000 we currently depend on to support the library.

People from the FOTL have reached out to personnel at other LS&S libraries to see what happened there. Escondido sued the company to get out of their contract because the LS&S contract became too expensive, and LS&S refused to provide them with transparency they needed. In another city, Santa Clarita, after they left LS&S they actually SAVED \$400,000 the following year! That's because LS&S derives most of its savings by the dramatic changes they make over the first couple of years, after which services and patron satisfaction continue to decline while LS&S profits increase.

And what about the hundreds of volunteers who currently provide 33,000 hours (worth over a million dollars annually)? If they stop, which most of those I spoke to said they would, they will need to be replaced, at an additional cost — or library services will suffer even more. Another overlooked expense will be refunding of pension contributions for all of the library staff who are not yet vested — which amounts to 8% of payroll, for up to 5 years of employment!

I spent over a decade as the President/CEO of a publicly-held NASDAQ corporation. I know a bit about RFPs and outsourcing. Outsourcing is generally best used only for well-defined tasks, not complex major functions. It works well for things like maintenance, or order fulfillment — but should never include turning over management control of a key function that provides a wide variety of services.

But if the council majority still thinks that the turnover of our library system to a private, for-profit company makes sense, then a DETAILED PLAN should be put together BEFORE THE RFP is distributed. The planning process should involve a committee of citizens and experts as well as staff who can identify the most likely implementation problems, staging of the implementation, and suggest practices and policies to be included in the RFP. We should NOT simply rely on the vendor's chosen performance indicators. The development of a detailed plan that precedes the issuance of the RFP is the most important part of the process.

It's very difficult to negotiate significant changes in a contract that differs from the RFP.

For example, it's unclear whether LS&S has the infrastructure or staff needed to implement their system in H.B. No other city in Orange County uses their services. Meeting with, and evaluating their staff (or at least requiring a qualification statement addressing their existing LOCAL infrastructure) in the RFP is essential. Furthermore, LS&S's standard contract is usually for a minimum of ten years. We need to

make sure that OUR contract with them has an escape clause that allows us to review, and possibly modify or cancel the contract every year, or 2 years. That needs to be in the RFP.

The council needs to SLOW DOWN, form an advisory committee with the required skill set, and complete a proper PLAN — before the RFP goes out. **Not doing this would be stunningly irresponsible.**

C "Shammy" Dingus  
shammyd@mac.com  
8932 Modesto Circle #1209E  
Huntington Beach CA 92646

**From:** [Sharon Cohoon](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Privatizing the library  
**Date:** Monday, April 8, 2024 11:38:17 AM

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Why are we even considering looking at a proposal from a company that seems to have dissatisfied clients? The City of Calabasas did not renew their contract with LS&S. Neither did Santa Clarita and they save \$400,000 the first year after making the switch. And Escondido is suing LS&S to get out of its contract early. Shouldn't these be warning signs? Besides, logic just tells you a for-profit company can't perform better than our current library administration (only a 2% increase over 9 years!!) without cutting something. Staff, hours, services, branches, maybe all of the above.

**From:** [Sharon Cohoon](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Privatization of the HB Public Library  
**Date:** Monday, April 8, 2024 11:39:07 AM

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If it's not broken, don't fix it. Leave our library alone.

**From:** [Ta Ord](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** HB Public Library  
**Date:** Monday, April 8, 2024 11:32:22 AM

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Please do not privatize our library. This is a public library and we pay taxes to have the library for residents, and residents are against privatization. You don't have residents' votes. The new co will start charging us for anything we want to use inside the library. They will lay off staff.

The kids are always accompanied by parents and they cannot get their hands on LGBTQ books and sex books. And teenagers already have access to these stuff via their friends or Internet and TV. Our teenagers already have girl friends and boy friends and have experienced sex and it is better for them to know what exactly is going on, not to get pregnant and learn about diseases. Parents are sometimes shy to talk to them about sex, and it is then that these books come handy. Our children will find out about intercourse when they have friends and these books help them to know more.

Are you turning our city into an underdeveloped city like the countries in Middle East? We are becoming worse than them, as they don't ban birth control pills and books, and abortion, but we do here in our country.

So privatizing our libraries and hiding books will not help us. Instead, pave our streets and potholes, put more police in our Streets and finish replacing our old damaged underground gas lines, save our pets from being killed and so many other necessities that we need to have in our city.

Thank you.

**From:** [Dale Martinez](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Regarding agenda item 24-219 for April 2 City Council Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, April 8, 2024 2:01:12 PM

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Regarding Library Services Commission on April 10, 2024

I will not be able to attend.

Thank you for allowing my input.

Dale Martinez

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dale Martinez** <[daleneuls@gmail.com](mailto:daleneuls@gmail.com)>

Date: Sun, Mar 31, 2024 at 11:14 AM

Subject: Regarding agenda item 24-219 for April 2 City Council Meeting

To: CITY COUNCIL <[City.Council@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:City.Council@surfcity-hb.org)>, <[supplementalComm@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:supplementalComm@surfcity-hb.org)>

To the Huntington Beach City Council

Regarding agenda item 24-219, proposed ordinance 4318

and also Privatization of the Huntington Beach Public Library

I think that the proposed Citizens Review Board is a bad idea. I urge a "no" vote on this ordinance as currently written.

1) ***It is cumbersome by nature.*** 21 members appointed 3 each by 7 City Council members to meet just twice a year. Too many people, with too few meetings. Can't imagine that it would be effective, under any mandate.

2) ***It is impracticable by nature.*** If these books are not purchased prior to the meeting and each member must review each book, for text and graphics, prior to the meeting (as stated in the ordinance), how is that actually going to happen? Where is the practicality in this for these volunteer board members? Is one dedicated person going to actually get a book and make an opinion? What is the point in that? That is why we should continue to belong to the American Library Association that actually has people from a variety of backgrounds who read and review books and write opinions about it. Oh, that's right... You want the HBPL to be out of the well established American Library Association so it can get book recommendations from your partisan, conservative organizations like Moms for Liberty and other christian right wing groups. So much for letting HB establish its own community standards (see below). I suppose you are also canvassing other religious organizations for their opinions on books that children should not be allowed to "see." Maybe graphic novels about David and his seduction of Bathsheba would be offensive to some mothers? What about books about war and pillage?

3) ***The designations of "Children's books" not to be allowed to anyone under 18?*** These books that are intended to be banned (yes, that is what is intended here) from the "Children's" section and not allowed to be checked out by anyone under 18 years old? What happened to the teen section idea? I can't imagine where you think an average 16 y/o gets information anyway. It is most certainly not in the Children's Section of a public library or by checking out books such as "The Catcher in the Rye" or "Gender Queer."

4) ***Donating or selling non-approved*** (banned books) to libraries outside of Huntington Beach, ***is hypocritical***. Why not make a public burning of them? (AQMD problems, probably.) You seem to be acknowledging that these books would be beneficial to someone, just not those the conservative majority of the City Council wishes to control. Why not put them in the Adult section permanently rather than pawn them off onto some other city? Or we could have a really juicy section called "Banned Children's Books," so the Adults in our community can make up their own mind and check them out and share them with their minor children because they deemed them to be appropriate based upon their own parenting standards.

5) ***The term "Community Standards" is fraught with problems***. As in a Supreme Court case "Community Standards" are hard to define.

"With its emphasis on the reaction of an average person rather than that of an especially susceptible person, the court rejected applying the [Hicklin test](#) [(from 1857] as a means of determining whether material is obscene." [1957RA [Supreme Court](#) decision in the matter of [Roth v. United States](#)]

My hope is that determination of "Community Standards" takes into account that Huntington Beach is diverse and changing and we do not cave to the will of and any political pressure applied by "especially susceptible" individuals who have large megaphones and a council majority tying the professional librarians hands and judgements.

6) ***Do not privatize our Public Library***. Lastly, I want to again express my outrage that the City Council conservative majority, unable to manage a budget because of high legal expenditures (obviously) and poor management (too many high paid attorneys and inability to hire a professional City Manager (no offense intended to our Police Chief), or a professional head librarian, is trying to privatize our beloved HBPLibrary. All of the above could be handled well by our Huntington Beach Public Library, with community input and professional, community based people. Why would you want such an important thing outsourced to a for-profit organization, who is not based in Huntington Beach, or even Orange County or California? Shameful!

Quit being those "especially sensitive" people who are bulldozing the Citizens of Huntington Beach with your reactionary agenda.

Sincerely

Dale Neuls Martinez

714-717-7235

resident of Huntington Beach, granddaughter and daughter of former residents of Huntington Beach, mother and grandmother of residents of Huntington Beach.

Volunteer at Oakview Library Literacy program

Save and Protect Huntington Beach

Join a Banned Book Club

**From:** [EdyZS@socal.rr.com](mailto:EdyZS@socal.rr.com)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Privatizing HB library  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 10:46:51 AM

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I absolutely don't support privatizing Huntington Beach Library. I'm sick and tired of the Maga majority of the council who don't listen to the majority of HB citizens who keep telling them that we don't want the library privatized and don't want book banning.

Edy Stumpf  
34 year HB resident

**From:** [Greg Gillinger](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Hands Off the Library  
**Date:** Monday, April 8, 2024 10:24:38 PM

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Statement on the matter of the City Council Privatizing our HB Public Library

The HB Public Library is a gem. Get back to issues like our deteriorating infrastructure and the need for city planning that will ensure our town remains affordable for our kids. Hands off the library...and the books in it for that matter.

Many thanks to the three city council members for standing up to the fraudulent four.

Greg Gillinger

HB Resident since 1972 (with a small 26 year break to serve in the US Air Force).

**From:** [Lindsay Klick](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Cc:** [Van Der Mark, Gracey](#); [Burns, Pat](#); [Bolton, Rhonda](#); [Kalmick, Dan](#); [McKeon, Casey](#); [Moser, Natalie](#); [Strickland, Tony](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment Study Session - Library Privatization and Censorship  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 7:46:14 AM

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I am writing to once again tell the City Council to stop moving forward with their attacks on our library and on the parents, kids, teens, and entire community of library users in Huntington Beach.

First, the “Community Parent-Guardian Review Board.” At a previous City Council meeting, Mayor Van Der Mark went on an on about the qualifications of parents to review library books to determine whether they are appropriate for children. She was indignant at the idea that trained and experience librarians could possibly know more than parents. I’d actually like to agree with the Mayor, for once, with one small addition. Parents are the experts on THEIR OWN CHILDREN. One parent, or 21 parents, are not experts on what is “appropriate” for the entire population of Huntington Beach’s children.

And that is why the way public libraries work throughout this free country is so elegant and simple. Librarians use tools including circulation statistics, book reviews, familiarity with the current library holdings and deep knowledge of their community gained through interactions with the public day in and out to decide which books to purchase with the limited funds they are entrusted with. The books they choose are shelved in sections based on the audience most likely to want or need those books. The general sections are Adult, Teen, and Children’s. There are smaller subsections within Children’s reflecting reading and interest levels. More simply, “books are for use,” and the librarian’s job is to make sure the most people who might want a certain book can find it easily.

Once a book is purchased and shelved in the library, it sits there waiting for someone to check them out. Not every children’s book is right for every child. Parents are the experts on their own children and the parents of Huntington Beach are no different than those in the rest of Orange County. Parents concerned about book content already review the books their children have chosen before they allow their children to check them out.

As we agree that parents are experts on their own kids, it should be easy to see that the “Community Parent-Guardian Review Board” is offensive to the parents of Huntington Beach. It says, “you don’t know how to help your kids choose books” and removes their power to do so, putting it in the hands of 21 parents who they don’t know and who don’t know their kids. The Review Board is the OPPOSITE of “Parents’ Rights.”

As a Children’s Librarian for 13 years, I know most of the names of the kids who come into my small branch. I ask them about what they want to read and help them find new things. I talk to their parents too. I don’t push my personal views on them but help them find what suits their family best. I KNOW my community of readers better than 21 random parents, I guarantee that, and so do the Huntington Beach Librarians. Helping is what we do for a living. The City Council should try helping instead of dividing the community and tearing the library down. Helping is a wonderful feeling and something I feel lucky to be paid to do every day.

As for privatization - if this goes forward, I think Councilman Strickland will be surprised to find it a pyrrhic victory. I did not vote for the “Fab 4” but I have friends and family members who did. They are absolutely shocked at the decision to privatize the library. They aren’t fans of the censorship board either. But taken together they are disgusted. Where was “taking on the library” on the list of campaign promises? Consider your own political careers and reject the privatization bid. You may not use our library, but community members of all political stripes do and many have made our city’s “civic crown jewel” a part of their lives. They bring grandkids to story time. They volunteer. Even if they haven’t been in years they have fond memories of the library. Ask around a bit. You’ll see. Then ask yourself, “Is it worth my political career to destroy the library?”

Sincerely,  
Lindsay Klick  
Mother, HB Resident, Librarian



**From:** [Lindsay K](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Public Comment Study Session - Library Privatization and Censorship  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 8:50:26 AM

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I've seen this gaslighting response before. I work for government. You put out an RFP to hire someone. Not just for funsies. This is incredibly unpopular and will negate the added benefits nonprofits like the library Friends groups add to the library. It will damage the library. Just don't do it.

Lindsay  
Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 9, 2024, at 8:25 AM, Gomez, Charlene <[cgomez@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:cgomez@surfcity-hb.org)> wrote:

>

> Good Morning Lindsay,

>

> Thank you for taking the time to submit comments. I will provide them to the Commissioners for their review.

>

> Regards,

>

> Charlene Gomez

> Sr. Administrative Assistant

> Community & Library Services

> City of Huntington Beach

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Lindsay Klick <[linfish@hotmail.com](mailto:linfish@hotmail.com)>

> Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 7:46 AM

> To: Gomez, Charlene <[cgomez@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:cgomez@surfcity-hb.org)>

> Cc: Van Der Mark, Gracey <[Gracey.VanDerMark@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:Gracey.VanDerMark@surfcity-hb.org)>; Burns, Pat <[Pat.Burns@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:Pat.Burns@surfcity-hb.org)>; Bolton, Rhonda <[Rhonda.Bolton@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:Rhonda.Bolton@surfcity-hb.org)>; Kalmick, Dan <[Dan.Kalmick@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:Dan.Kalmick@surfcity-hb.org)>; McKeon, Casey <[Casey.McKeon@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:Casey.McKeon@surfcity-hb.org)>; Moser, Natalie <[Natalie.Moser@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:Natalie.Moser@surfcity-hb.org)>; Strickland, Tony <[Tony.Strickland@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:Tony.Strickland@surfcity-hb.org)>

> Subject: Public Comment Study Session - Library Privatization and Censorship

>

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>

> First, the "Community Parent-Guardian Review Board." At a previous City Council meeting, Mayor Van Der Mark went on an on about the qualifications of parents to review library books to determine whether they are appropriate for children. She was indignant at the idea that trained and experience librarians could possibly know more than parents. I'd actually like to agree with the Mayor, for once, with one small addition. Parents are the experts on THEIR OWN CHILDREN. One parent, or 21 parents, are not experts on what is "appropriate" for the entire population of Huntington Beach's children.

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> And that is why the way public libraries work throughout this free country is so elegant and simple. Librarians use tools including circulation statistics, book reviews, familiarity with the current library holdings and deep knowledge of their community gained through interactions with the public day in and out to decide which books to purchase with the limited funds they are entrusted with. The books they choose are shelved in sections based on the audience most likely to want or need those books. The general sections are Adult, Teen, and Children's. There are smaller subsections within Children's reflecting reading and interest levels. More simply, "books are for use," and the librarian's job is to make sure the most people who might want a certain book can find it easily.

>

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Beach are no different than those in the rest of Orange County. Parents concerned about book content already review the books their children have chosen before they allow their children to check them out.

>

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>

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>

> Sincerely,

> Lindsay Klick

> Mother, HB Resident, Librarian

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**From:** [Nikki Sandifer](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Our libraries  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 7:34:42 AM

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My family has resided in HB for almost 40 years and have been and continue to be frequent users of our HB libraries. We are adamantly against the privatization of our libraries and the interference of the city council with the so called Parent Guardian Review Board. Parents themselves are always a review board!  
I strongly urge the council to consider the input of the residents of the city and not just their own misplaced agendas.  
Sincerely, Nikki and David Sandifer  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Tracy Luth](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** No to privatizing of the HB Library  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 6:55:19 AM

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I am completely opposed to privatizing our HB Library. It is vital community space and it is thriving. This is not the place for the city to cut programs to balance the budget. The loss of programs and services, volunteer participation and donations, and non profit grants far exceeds any savings to the city budget.

Surely the city council and staff can research other revenue sources at their disposal (beach parking for non residents for example) unless of course their sole purpose is to reduce library service and access....

Either way, we are watching and we vote.

Sincerely,  
Tracy Luth

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

**From:** [onewildart \(null\)](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Privatizing the library  
**Date:** Monday, April 8, 2024 2:33:07 PM

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I am totally opposed to outsourcing the library. Our library is thriving and does NOT need rescuing. Libraries that are happy were failing...ours is not!!

Saving money is not the reason to do this. Our library is an asset , not a liability. I challenge anyone who uses this as an excuse to prove it.

We will lose so much that is good if our citizens and volunteers are discouraged from participating.

Please do not recommend this faulty change to our excellent library.

Trudy Roe  
47 year resident and library patron

Sent from my

**From:** [v.allen@verizon.net](mailto:v.allen@verizon.net)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** book review and privatizing of our HB library  
**Date:** Monday, April 8, 2024 4:34:29 PM

---

I want to show my support for The Friends of the HBPL. I have been a supporter of the Library for as long as I have lived here. We moved to HB in 1976. We raised two children here and they became very familiar with the children's library. We often went weekly and the service and smiles my children got from the Librarians was amazing. The fact that they could pick out their own books at an early age was so special for them. They grew up knowing that books were special and could take them all over the world. I have two Grandchildren who are now loving the HB library experience. I know they will be great readers and enriched by what they read.

This sets the stage for what is breaking my heart! The City Council has decided they know better than the community what the Library needs. It needs a 21 member Review Board to oversee which new books come into the Library. Apparently our fine staff of qualified Librarians are not good enough.

If that is not enough, they have now decided to privatize our whole library system! They want to give our Library to a for-profit company, supposedly to save them money. I know enough about the company to know the cuts in staff, in books, in hours, and in any other possible ways to degrade our wonderful Library and Staff.

Something must be done. The Council does not listen to the community. It has no wish to keep our Library whole and our city vibrant. Please help!

Thank you,  
Veronica Allen

**From:** [Ann Palmer](#)  
**To:** [Lolly Mchardy](#); [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Comments: HB Library services outsourcing  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 1:11:34 PM  
**Attachments:** [Ann Palmer.pdf CC Mar 19 2024 slides Library Agenda #14 24 88.pdf](#)

---

Attached is a PDF of slides without speaker notes that were used during Public Comments at Feb 19 CC meeting. These were prepared after I had done a good bit of research regarding Library Privatization/outsourcing. Our comments were limited due to speaker # volume so wanted to put this in front of you again.

One point I did not include but was mentioned in an article in the OC Independent was that the RFP could be submitted to the current city department responsible for the library. This may seem pointless in that the Library already presented a report that was intended to provide solutions and that ended up being mostly fruitless. Still, it would be both interesting and useful to document response to equitable RFP.

I will also be sending an Executive Summary white paper from a town in Florida that went through this process. It describes the project, defines the subject and lists/summarizes what they learned from a number of municipalities across the country that ventured forward with outsourcing at some level.

This is not a communication fully in support of privatization especially given that the staffing at the primary provider in the space but it is an acknowledgement of the city's need to explore options for efficacy, budget and safety/sanctity of minors.

Thank you again for the work — and extreme patience — you apply to these contentious issues. And much appreciation for the volume of ongoing civic issues that you are addressing! HB is a better, safer and more beautiful city because of that work and the collaboration of law enforcement, Fire/Rescue, City Attorney's office and the many other departments who benefit from your vision.

Best,

Ann Palmer  
30+ yr resident homeowner  
HB 92648  
319.982.8263

**From:** [Ann Palmer](#)  
**To:** [Lolly Mchardy](#); [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Example of Study for Library outsourcing  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 2:17:32 PM  
**Attachments:** [exe\\_sum Library study FL.pdf](#)

---

This is an Executive Summary document from a study by a municipality in Florida. I believe it may be helpful in structuring our own study in Huntington Beach.

The terminology, process and brief reviews of other cities across the country that did undertake some level of outsourcing adds definition to the available options.

Again, I do not vigorously support “less local” operations for our Huntington Beach Public Library but find that the current situation — both financially and attitudinally — requires that such options be studied. I am even less enthused by the consideration of the premier vendor in this category due to their Sales Representative, Michael Posey, who established a reputation of frivolous spending on investment schemes and other questionable practices IMO while he served on the City Council of Huntington Beach.

I would also recommend that:

- RFP be issued to 3 vendors; AND
- RFP be issued to HBPL (City Mgr)  
[we understand that a Report was generated last year; however, for best options, accountability and public support we should borrow a page from corporate requisitions & Project RFP process to include the internal/incumbent provider]
- If any Library management or functions are outsourced, Contract should be limited to two (2) years, as
- Transition — depending on level & details of selected services — will likely require 3-12 months, and
- Should the effort fail in efficacy or otherwise, exiting the Contract and transitioning to other provider (public or private) can be costly and tedious
- Caution should be used in contracting any IT, SAAS, proprietary software or Apps. Specialized HB technical & procurement staff or consultants will need in-depth review and process.

Thank you for your participation regarding our wonderful library and the community concerns about what should have been a simple, age-appropriate recataloguing process and the establishment of basic oversight/ protections for minors. There were relatively few books by percentage that were placed inappropriately. To have the issue conflated with book banning is ludicrous and seriously undermines any reasonable dialogue.

Regards,  
Ann Palmer

**From:** [Ann Palmer](#)  
**To:** [Lolly Mchardy](#); [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Support Parent-Guardian Book Review  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 2:51:37 PM  
**Attachments:** [library excerpt 4.2.24.pdf](#)

---

Attached is an excerpt from slides presented as Comments @ 4.02.23 CC meeting. This is in support of the creation of a Parent-Guardian-Community Book Review committee as it embraces these important principals that should be inherent in our libraries

- Archetype of Participatory Government – a leading principle of Local Governance
- Community Service Librarianship
- Elevate cohesive, homogenous patron experience
- Embrace larger community as a whole
- Builds public trust & confidence
- Protects Children

-----

I would add the following based on what we have heard recently:

- this needs to be a Committee structured to foster open discussions, casual meetings and flexible practices
- I have concerns about “non-negotiable” book designations by the committee IF that implies there will be no interaction with librarians during the process of reviewing or cataloguing based on the review.
- Some but not all city librarians seem or are intractable but they should not be, so
- the hope is that a community & staff relationship develops to best incorporate parental guidance and librarian knowledge
- this committee needs to be involved as USER INTERFACE contributors and evaluators for the PARENTAL CHOICE App and processes because
- “We can’t sell it if it doesn’t work,” and Choice is a key part of maintaining access to literary content while protecting minors from inappropriate materials

Best,  
Ann Palmer  
30+ yr Resident/Homeowner (& mom)  
HB 92648

**From:** [Jeanne Whitesell](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** No to privatizing HB Library  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 12:25:20 PM

---

Please add me to the majority of HB citizens who oppose privatization of our beloved library. I will not go into all the reasons as I'm sure you've heard them all.. If not check Next door where I've posted reasons and have gotten thousands of supporters. Also posted on FB where again much support.

Thank you for doing what you can to prevent privatizing the HB library.

Jeanne Whitesell  
17922 Shoreham Lane  
Huntington Beach, CA 92649

**From:** [Jennifer Squires](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Please Keep Our Libraries Public  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 4:26:25 PM

---

To Whom It May Concern: I was born in Huntington Beach and have lived here my entire life and I greatly hope that you will keep our amazing libraries public. The libraries and their staff have beautifully served this community for decades and there is no need to change this in any way. Please don't privatize our libraries and please don't let this be the reason why thousands of residents decide not to vote for the current city council during the reelections.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Squires

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Natalie](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Do not privatize our library!  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 1:56:48 PM

---

Hi,

As a longtime patron of our city library, and a mother with 2 children who have fond memories of library time, I write to express my deep concern over the proposed privatization of this beloved institution. For years, the library has been a cornerstone of our community, offering a welcoming space for learning, discovery, and connection. Our Children's "Storytime" has been a tradition of mom's clubs for years! Reflecting on the countless hours my family and I have spent within its walls, the idea of transforming our library into a profit-driven entity is both disheartening and alarming.

I have observed firsthand the library's role in fostering a love for reading and learning, not just in my children, but in everyone who walks through its doors. The thought of introducing a model where profit margins could dictate the availability and quality of services is unsettling. Will they charge for holds? For ebooks? For Storytime?

Across the nation, we've seen how privatization can lead to increased costs, diminished services, and a shift away from the library's core mission of serving the public good. This is not just about financial efficiency; it's about preserving a space that enriches our community in immeasurable ways.

I am especially concerned that decisions about the library's future might be swayed by individuals who do not regularly use or understand the unique value the library brings to our daily lives. It's crucial that the voices of **actual library users**, those of us who regularly use its services, are heard loud and clear in this decision. Our library is more than just a repository of books; it's a place for our HB residents to enjoy as families and a community.

The notion of privatizing the library brings a shift in focus from community service to profit. This change threatens to introduce fees where there were none, limit access to materials and services, and divert the library's mission from enriching the public to enriching a company! The impact goes beyond financial costs; it risks eroding the spirit of inclusivity and learning that defines our library.

I strongly urge you to oppose the privatization of our library. Let's ensure it remains a great place for learning, discovery, and community connection, not a commodity to be monetized.

Sincerely,

Natalie Zifcak

**From:** [Dennis Pappas](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Cc:** [Dennis Pappas](#)  
**Subject:** HB Community Library Services Commission  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 1:26:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [Patricia Pappas.pdf](#)

---

**From:** [Annie](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Re: April 4/10 Study Session  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 9:02:27 PM

---

On Tue, Apr 9, 2024 at 8:49 PM Annie <[hbannie8600@gmail.com](mailto:hbannie8600@gmail.com)> wrote:

## **Library Managed Services:**

**The rushed process and manner in which the managed library services proposal is being pursued is absurd. I can't stress enough the value of dedicated employees and localized services HBPL provides to its patrons - whether at the Central Library or the smaller community branches. Managed services will not be able to offer this intangible asset. The current level of service and care is not something that can simply be negotiated into a contract. This is why I am throwing my full support behind our wonderful librarians and our amazing library system. Our library system is too precious to be flippantly tossed around in a political game.**

## **Board Review:**

**The ordinance on the review Board is poorly written and the manner in which valid concerns were intentionally ignored by the council majority at the 3/19 City Council Meeting is alarming.**

**Additionally, I am extremely uncomfortable with the idea that 21 people that residents do not choose, who have no minimum qualifications, no integrity standards, or even an HB residency requirement will literally make decisions that affect our community. The way this ordinance is written suggests that the 21 member Board are not our peers - they are intended to be our community's gatekeepers to knowledge; they don't even have to live in HB, don't have to patronize the library, and can even be convicted criminals. The way the ordinance was written took great pains to identify "sexual content" and "sexual reference" but ironically does not exclude pedophiles or child abusers from serving on this committee, which are the real danger to children - not books. Clearly, this Board is not about protecting children - it is an attack on knowledge, education, and diversity.**

**From:** [Barbara Snider](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Huntington Beach Libraries  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 9:52:27 AM

---

Dear Commissioners,

I do plan to attend the meeting tonight to discuss the library. Admittedly, i am not aware of all the latest developments and hope to learn them tonight. I understand an RFP for a new automated library system has been approved - but only heard on local neighborhood blog. Certainly hope that is not the case in this highly charged environment. So I am rather confused, and hope that can be cleared up tonight. I would like to speak, but will be unable to sign up within designated window of time allotted for that. I am opposed to the privatization of our library system, the movement to censor from general access certain categories of books, and the creation of a board of unprofessional book reviewers.

Most sincerely,  
Barbara Snider

**From:** [buzz mccord](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Cc:** [Haugli, Erik](#); [Szabo, Matthew](#)  
**Subject:** HUNTINGTON BEACH CS&Library Commission meeting.  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 9:44:30 AM  
**Attachments:** [Facts for COMMISSION 4-24.pdf](#)

---

RE: Item b. Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposals for Managed Library Services.  
To the Commission, as a many decade resident of HBeach...

I am attaching a brief Fact sheet about the HB Library System.

Sources are cited.

HBL has proven its popularity and utility.

The system has demonstrated economic efficiency in comparison to similar systems statewide.

I can supply a more detailed analysis at your request.

It would be economically wasteful to move forward with privatization, also known as  
Managed Services.

**From:** [buzz mccord](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Cc:** [Haugli, Erik](#); [Szabo, Matthew](#)  
**Subject:** HUNTINGTON BEACH CS&Library Commission meeting.  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 9:44:30 AM  
**Attachments:** [Facts for COMMISSION 4-24.pdf](#)

---

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The system has demonstrated economic efficiency in comparison to similar systems statewide.

I can supply a more detailed analysis at your request.

It would be economically wasteful to move forward with privatization, also known as  
Managed Services.

**From:** [Carol Pilgrim](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library services and children  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 7:49:48 PM

---

I am writing in support of sorting literature age appropriately, just as films are sorted. As a retired educator and school psychologist, I'm appalled at material that was found in the children's section of the Huntington Beach Library and the misinformation that's being spread regarding "book banning".

Our children are being subjected to far too much explicit material that they are not mature enough to determine on their own. This results in confusion, and without appropriate parental guidance they often turn to peers or worse, groomers who are all too ready to fill in the gaps. I'm in total support of Library cards that authorize parental guidance, and book sorting to age appropriateness. I've had a career working with confused, abused and sexualized adolescents. The public library should not be a contributor.

Carol Pilgrim  
Huntington Beach

**From:** [Gerry de Boer](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 7:15:15 PM

---

As a resident of H. B. for 50 years, I am against the privatization of our Community/Public Library. The Library is a community effort. We do not desire to have a "so call professional " business run our community. Our residents, men, women and children have always felt welcomed and appreciated by our Library staff and all the services they provide.

I question the individuals participating in the so call book reviews regarding acceptability. I would like to know their names, qualifications and background.

I don't understand the need or purpose for the proposals presented by the city council.

Gerry de Boer

**From:** [Jane Iovine](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Thank you for your service  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 8:45:04 AM

---

Thank you all for your service to the City and review of our Library system.

I hope that as you represent the citizens of Huntington Beach you will weigh heavily the responses both in person and via email that you receive from those of us that you represent, including myself.

The Huntington Beach Librarians are excellent at the jobs they are trained for and I totally and completely trust their well educated decision making to appropriately administer and choose the books and programs offered through the public library.

I do not believe there is a need for the addition of a group review of books and I do not support the privatization of our library.

Jane Iovine

**From:** [Jeanne Paris](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** RFP and Parent - Guardian Review Board  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 5:24:00 PM

---

To: Community and Library Services Commission and Staff

I am writing in strong support of the RFP - Request for Proposal. This allows the staff to gather more information regarding the benefits of possible outsourcing. This is not a takeover to privatize our library. If we can save substantial funds by doing so this is a good thing. Nothing has been finalized at this point.

I also strongly support the Parent - Guardian Review Board. I would very much like to see parents and residents involved in placing books in their proper section in the library. Parents working with librarians are the best solution regarding questionable material that is not age appropriate.

Finally, I would like to once again remind the commission and staff that there has never been a request to ban any books in our library. I find this constant refrain to be very misleading and has caused much unneeded confusion in our community.

Thank you for all your hard work.

Jeanne Paris  
HB Resident

**From:** [Jill Bauer](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** HBPL Privatization  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 7:31:58 AM

---

Dear Community & Library Services Commission,

I have been a resident of the City of Huntington Beach since moving to California in 2015. Throughout that time one of the aspects of the community that I most enjoy is the Huntington Beach Public Library. I use the library regularly and think it is a well run and effective public library.

I strongly oppose the privatization of the library. Public libraries are a quintessential American value. Please do not take this away from our community.

Thank you,  
Jill Bauer

**From:** [Joclyn Rabbitt-Sire](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library Commission Mtg. 4/10/2024  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 11:39:03 PM

---

Dear Library Commissioners,

I would like to voice my opposition to both Resolution 2023-41 and the pursuit of any proposals to privatize the Huntington Beach Public Library system.

If there remains any chance of turning back Resolution 2023-41, and dissolving plans to form the Community Parent-Guardian Review Board, I beseech you to do so. A 21-member board is too numerous to come to any consensus on the volume of books they would need to vet for our children. I have confidence that our experienced librarians, who have a Masters degree in Library Sciences, can do a much better job than a large group of citizens with no expertise or credentials.

Furthermore, it is absolutely critical that your commission reject the process of privatizing our libraries! The reasons this proposal is misguided are too numerous to enumerate here. I understand that a primary motivation that has lured many cities to outsource their library management is the promise of cost savings. However, careful inspection of the facts shows that cities do not benefit financially in the long run. Consider the simple fact that 30 cents out of every dollar spent under private management will exit our community, to enrich the profits of the company. When Calabasas canceled its contract with LS & S, they saved \$68,000 in just their first year back in public control.

<https://capitalandmain.com/calabasas-and-other-towns-reject-privatized-libraries-0731>

I am just one of the hundreds of HB residents who has come out publicly in strong opposition to the assault that Huntington Beach libraries have been under for the past year. This means there are perhaps thousands more who are also unhappy, but don't have the time to raise their voices. By subjecting our library staff to this constant stress and erosion of their job descriptions, we have let them down. We owe much more to individuals who have devoted their lives to making our libraries the invaluable resources they are.

For more information, please check out Escondido's struggle to break free from LS & S:

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/communities/north-county/escondido/story/2021-05-12/residents-upset-with-library>

I'm sure you became commissioners out of a sincere love for your community and for literacy; please show that you want what is best for Huntington Beach in your decisions this evening.

Sincerely,

Joclyn Rabbitt-Sire  
Resident

**From:** [katherine.neal](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Meeting of Community and Library Services  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 12:49:04 PM

---

I support the efforts of the City Council majority to make our library a safe and child-friendly space by relocating age-inappropriate materials to the properly designated areas of the library and issuing library cards that give parents options for their children's access. I also support having a citizen review board that works with library staff to oversee the selection of books. Requesting an RFP for library management services has my support as well. Thank you.

**From:** [Kathy Bourland](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 7:39:16 PM

---

I want to tell you that I love the old library. The place where there was peace and protection. it was a place of safety for children before the porn was allowed to enter. I understand that there is a small minority who seek out this trash as ADULTS are allowed to enter dirty book stores. The staff has made it clear that they support access to porn for minors that the laws don't support. This isn't about "health" books, this is about grooming.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

**From:** [Kim Hendricks](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Protect the HB Public Library!  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 10:47:00 AM

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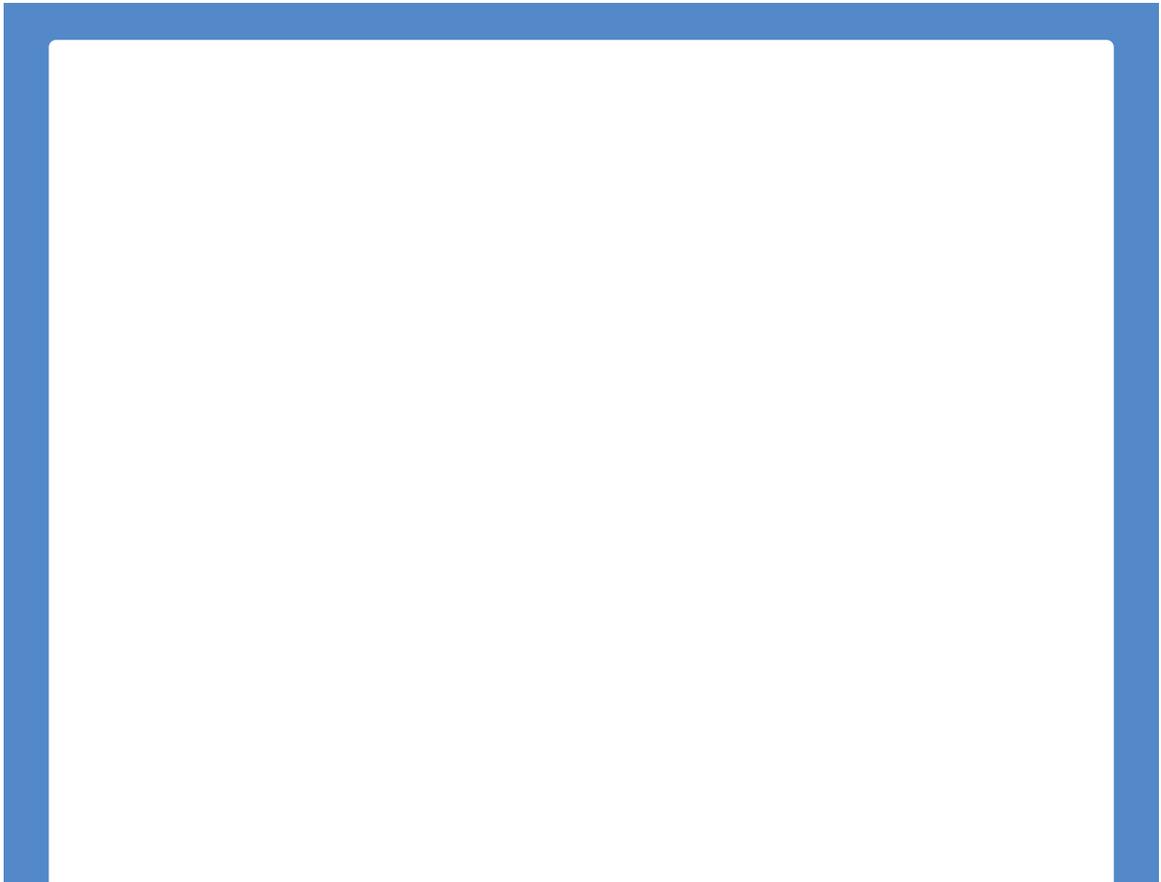
Mr. Gomez,

There are more and better reasons than ever to NOT privatize or HB public libraries.  
Please take a moment to look at the fact sheets.  
Please protect our quality of life in HB and do NOT allow our libraries to become privatized!  
Contractors and developers should not tell our city what to do - we tell them!!  
Thank you,  
Kim Hendricks  
Long time resident

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Glenda Mercado** <[g7lenda@gmail.com](mailto:g7lenda@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Tue, Apr 9, 2024 at 11:44 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Protect the HB Public Library!  
**To:** Glenda Mercado <[g7lenda@gmail.com](mailto:g7lenda@gmail.com)>

**From:** Protect Huntington Beach <[Contact@protecthb.org](mailto:Contact@protecthb.org)>  
**Date:** April 8, 2024 at 6:40:50 PM PDT  
**Subject:** **Protect the HB Public Library!**



Logo white background 93KB

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Dear New Subscribers,  
Here is the email that was sent out on Friday, April 5. Going forward, you will generally receive one email per week on Fridays. It will include actions you can take and updates on issues of concern.  
Thank you for joining us!

\*\*\*



# **COMMUNITY & LIBRARY SERVICES COMMISSION**

**APRIL 10, 6PM, COUNCIL  
CHAMBERS**

The next Community & Library Services Commission meeting is this Wednesday at 6pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Like the City Council meetings, the public is welcome to comment either in-person or via email.

The agenda can be found [here](#). The Commission

will be discussing the latest actions of the City Council regarding the HB Public Libraries--the Parent-Guardian Review Board and the RFP for private management of the libraries.

**If you are unable to attend, please let the commissioners know what you think. Send emails to [cgomez@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:cgomez@surfcity-hb.org) by 1:00pm on April 10.**

\*\*\*

## Let's Do It Again!

We're having another "Silent Protest" on Friday, April 12 at 6pm. We can (AND MUST) talk to people along the way, but we will not have any amplified sound or loud chanting that could disturb businesses on Main St.



\*\*\*



**Take a look at this 2 page "Library Fact Sheet". It's filled with great information. You can print each page (link at the bottom of each page) to share with your friends and neighbors. We need to make sure EVERYONE is informed.**



Click [here](#) for printable Library Fact Sheet Page 1.



Click [here](#) for printable Library Fact Sheet Page 2.

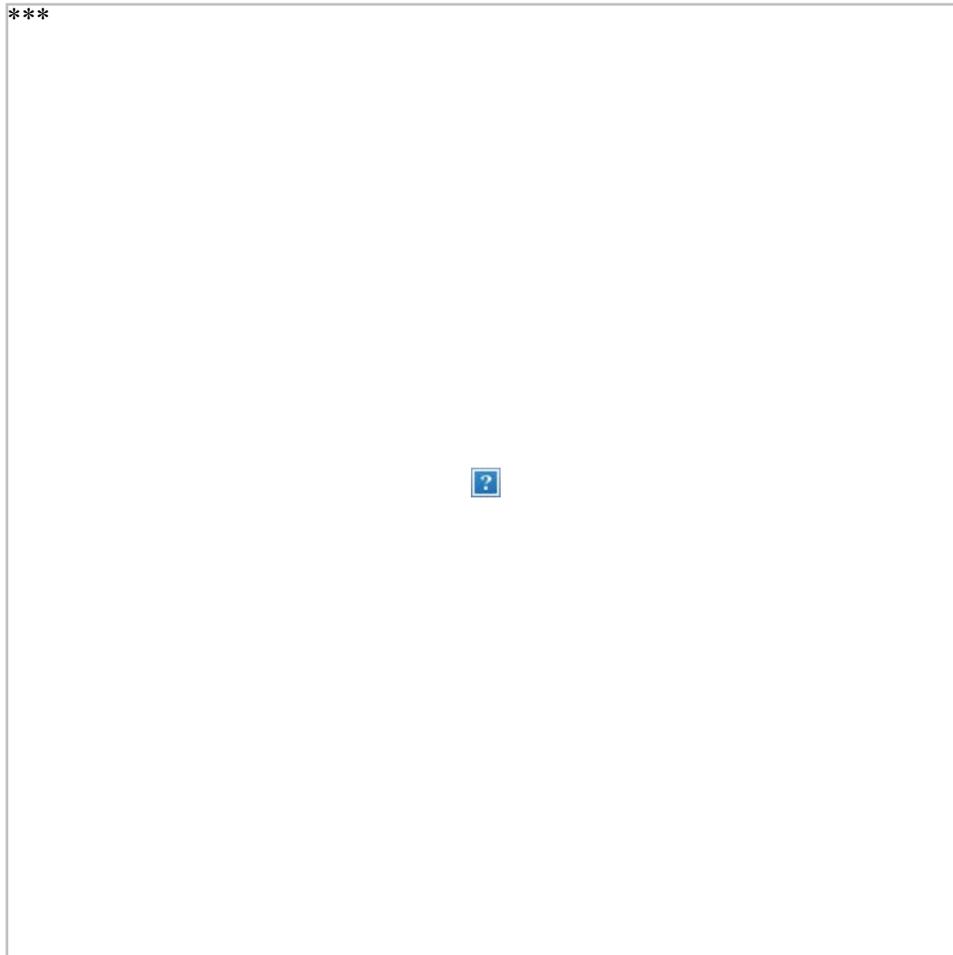
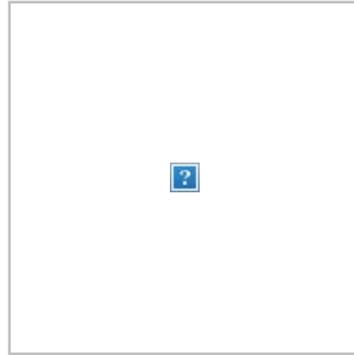
\*\*\*

**PRIDE flags will no longer fly  
from HB City Poles**

**Let's flood the city with  
PRIDE flags on every  
house!**

We believe in "intersectionality" and support Pride at the Pier's efforts for education and inclusivity. For a donation of \$20 or more, a full-size Pride flag will be delivered to your door.

We think this is a Win-Win. It's a visibility effort to let people know we are a welcoming community, plus it helps a worthwhile nonprofit raise a few dollars.

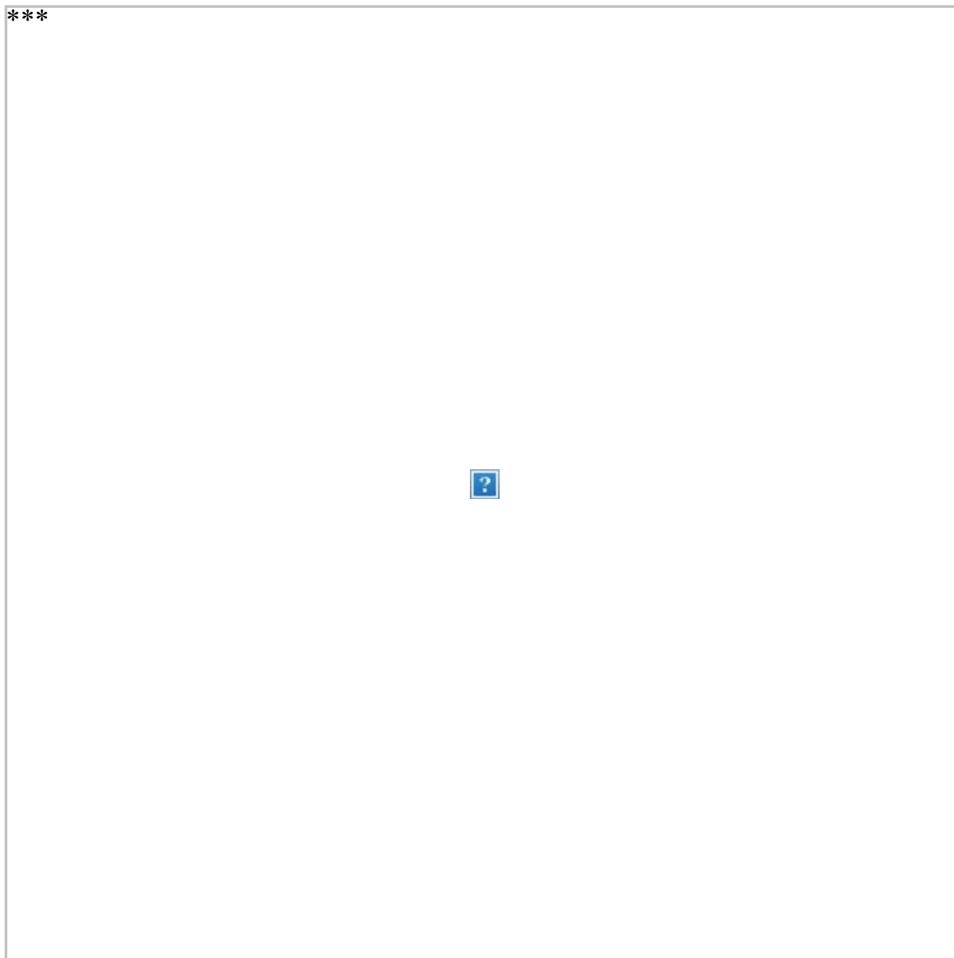




## **RSVP for the address**

Our last "Input & Debrief" will be on April 13, 10am, Adams/Newland [April 13 RSVP](#). We will meet on the front porch, weather permitting. If the weather is not cooperating, we will meet inside the house.

\*\*\*



Freedom to Read



*Click on image to RSVP*

## **This is a FREE Event**

This Freedom to Read event is Free. Lunch is included, but parking charges can be up to \$15. Natalie Moser will be speaking in the afternoon, as well as one of our favorite local HB authors. Plus, a group of young activists (Golden State Readers) will be informing other young people how to fight book banning.

\*\*\*

**We have been witnessing a concerted effort by the extremist majority on the City Council to undermine our professional librarians, take control of the materials in the library, and strip the libraries of funding. Three councilmembers have consistently supported the Huntington Beach**

public libraries.

## Learn more about them here.



Councilmember Natalie Moser  
Website: [Natalie4HB.com](http://Natalie4HB.com)

Councilmember Rhonda Bolton  
Website: [RhondaBolton.com](http://RhondaBolton.com)

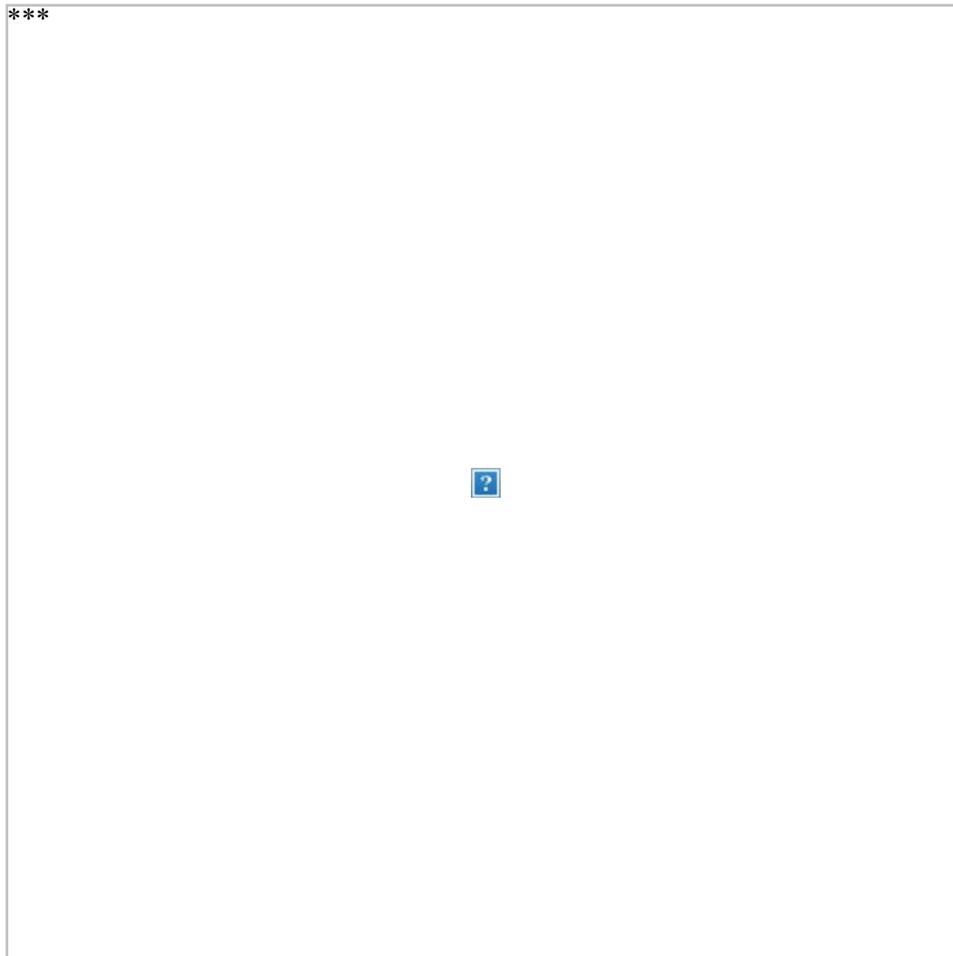


Councilmember Dan Kalmick  
Website: [DanKalmick.com](http://DanKalmick.com)

\*\*\*

**We hope you didn't miss our first "Silent Protest" on Main Street on March 29. At least 200 people joined in the protest to share our heartache and frustration from the attacks on our library. The public we encountered were alarmed, concerned, and supportive of our actions.**

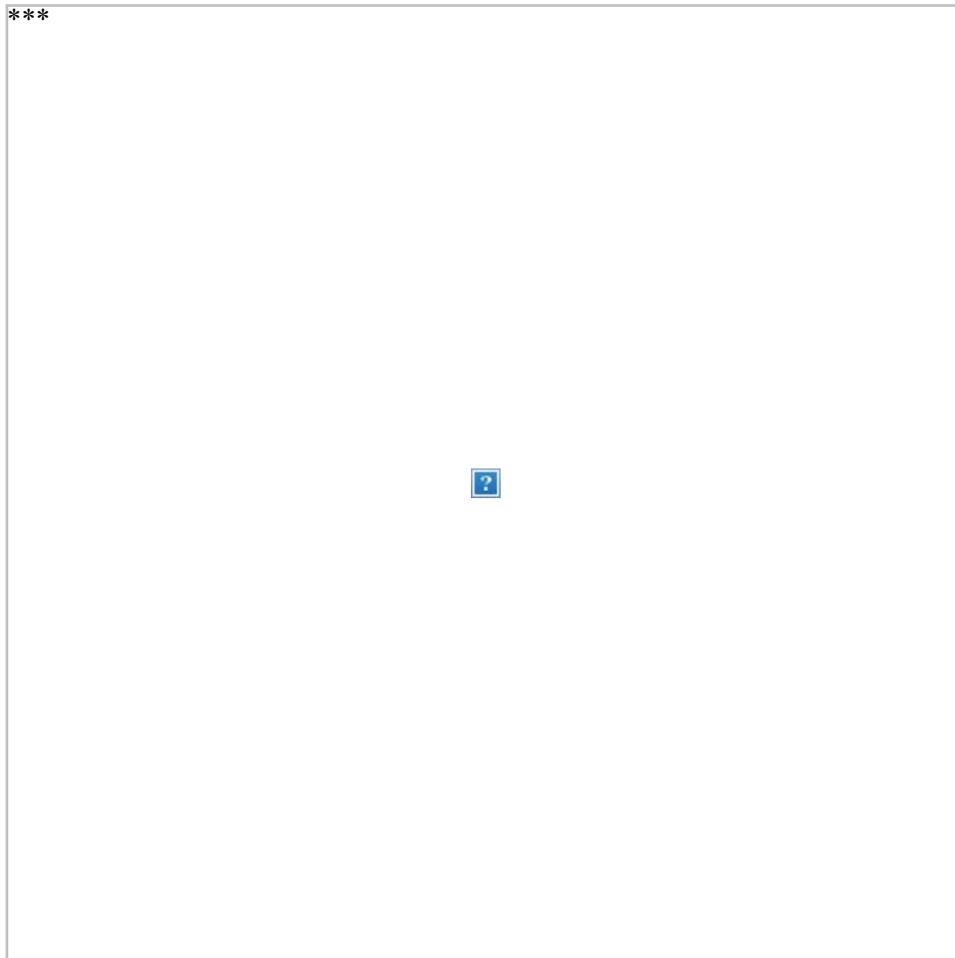
Click on the "Daily Pilot" article to read about it.



## **We Love Our Community!**

Consider signing up to volunteer for one of the Community Service Day Projects [here](#). Getting involved in local activities creates opportunities to have conversations with people who may not know

about what is happening in local government. In order to truly protect Huntington Beach, we must inform more people about what is at risk.



## Follow us on Social Media

Facebook: [Protect Huntington Beach](#)

Instagram: [protect\\_hb](#)

TikTok: [protect.huntingto](#)

X (formerly Twitter): [@protect\\_hb](#)

YouTube: [Protect HB](#)

\*\*\*



[Click here to go to our website](#)

[Click here to send us a message](#)

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**DONATE!**

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**From:** [Kirsten Crane Cadden](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Comments regarding COMMUNITY & LIBRARY SERVICES COMMISSION  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 10:27:44 AM

---

Hello,

I am a resident of Huntington Beach and a frequent visitor of the HB Public Library with my child. I would like to add my comments regarding the discussion of City Council Resolution 2023-41.

First, as a resident it is important to me that the library remain public. Recently I was at the library and observed the wealth of classes, community events, and community resources available through the library. It truly is a community space for gathering and learning. As such a space, it should remain public. The library belongs to us all, and privatization jeopardizes this fact. We should reject private management of the library.

Additionally, I am concerned about the proposed Parent-Guardian Review Board. I am a parent in Huntington Beach. I do monitor the content in the media that my child consumes, as I'm sure most parents do. It is important to ensure children are not consuming age inappropriate material that could potentially frighten, confuse, or harm them in some way. That being said, the decisions about how to monitor this content are up to me as a parent. I need to educate my child as she grows, and this is a more nuanced process than simply censoring the world around her. I do not want a committee of parents (with their values, biases, and life experience) to be making these decisions for me and my child.

The library needs to remain public, and the parents in the community need to be empowered to teach and protect their children. These measures go hand in hand. A committee of parents pre-deciding for me and my child what books we can access is not empowering me as a parent. It demonstrates mistrust of my ability to guide my child, and puts other parents in control of my parenting decisions.

I strongly support keeping the HB Library public and I strongly support empowering HB parents by rejecting the establishment of the Parent-Guardian Review Board.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments,

Kirsten Crane Cadden

16881 Canyon Ln.  
Huntington Beach

385-528-4807

**From:** [Leslie Golson](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 10:34:21 AM

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I'm against privatization. Our library has a rich history of supporting the people of Huntington Beach, and our community supports it.

I am against a committee of citizens to vote against books our professional librarians have chosen for our children. Yes, when parents are concerned for their children they should accompany them to the library to help them choose their books. I don't want self-selected critics deciding what is appropriate for my children! Let the professionals do their jobs!

Leslie Golson

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

**From:** [Lisa Allen](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Public Library  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 6:25:53 PM

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Hello! I am a long time resident of Huntington Beach. I have lived here all of my 44 years. I have been going to the different libraries since i was a little kid. The library is one of my favorite places in all of Huntington. I am asking you to leave the library as a public library. Privatization will only hurt our library and the staff who work so hard at their job. These librarians have gone to school to do their jobs and they do them well. I have been blessed in so many ways by these librarians and their hard work. Privatization of the library will only hurt the staff, volunteers and the people who use the library on a regular basis. Please protect our library and leave it as is. There is no reason to change something that is already great as it is. I appreciate your reading my email.

Lisa Allen  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Lisa England](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Cc:** [tjengland41@yahoo.com](mailto:tjengland41@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** HB Citizen against Library Privatization  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 12:38:28 PM

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Dear Ms. Gomez,

As a lifetime citizen of Huntington Beach and a mother of two teens, I am fully against privatizing the H.B. Library, and all libraries. The insidious way our rights are being taken from us will only lead to the loss of ‘the people’s’ voices and choices. By the time the oppressors become the oppressed, it will be too late. It starts with our libraries, moves into our schools and by the time our babies become aware they will have no place to learn new and different ideas. They won’t have the resources to do the research and will be taught only one ideology. And if we believe this can’t happen in the digital age...then that will be our folly and our downfall.

A very concerned and active citizen and human being.

Lisa England

Lisa England  
714-514-9000

**From:** [Lisa Marin](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** NO privatization!!!  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 10:18:48 PM

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Dear City Council Members,

I've lived in HB now for 8 years, and in addition to the magnificent beach, beautiful parks and open spaces, I've come to appreciate how fortunate we are to have a fabulous public library. (And I've been to lots of really good libraries.) Please! Don't change what is a treasured anchor in this city, the Huntington Beach Public library system.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

**Lisa Marín**  
**Huntington Beach, CA**

*"The cure for anything is salt water: sweat, tears, or the sea."  
Isak Dinesen*



**EPHESIANS 6:12**  
**FOR OUR STRUGGLE IS NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD**  
**BUT AGAINST THE SPIRITUAL FORCES OF EVIL**

**From:** [Marissa Jackson](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Community Parent-Guardian Review Board  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 1:02:14 PM

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Hi Ms Gomez,

As a parent and citizen of Huntington Beach I want to share my support to have a parent review board for our city library. It is not uncommon to have parents sit on board to review the content of books in libraries. It is just another way for our citizens to get involved and for parents to be heard.

If you are familiar with the Bolsa Chica reserve area here in Huntington Beach you will see there is a long hard and protective fence that goes all around the entire reserve area. That area is fenced to protect us from natural predators and for that natural space to stay natural and protected. There are barriers in our ocean as well to protect us from predators in the ocean water. I could go on and on about the different ways we protect and guards in place to protect ourselves and children. Shouldn't we also protect ourselves and children from the pitfalls of pornography and the obscene of this world?!

There are so many statistics and studies that prove that explicit information and images are incredibly harmful to especially the developing mind of a child. We know this and the ramifications are scary for our society. It's what causes sexual violence and so much more!

I propose we have a parent review board and also allow to have a reserve collection of books that require parental consent/permission for children/youth youth to check out.

Marissa Jackson

**From:** [mary.q](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to Huntington Beach library privatization  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 12:09:21 PM

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Dear Huntington Beach City Council members,

I am writing to strenuously object to your proposal to privatize our library, it would destroy the fabric of the library by reducing funding from Friends of the Library, alienating the volunteers who are the heart of the library and putting access to low income users at risk.

The beauty of our library right now is the community of librarians and volunteers that engage with our HB community of readers and visitors. Please do not change a system that is working beautifully. Particularly as we know that the cities who thought they would save money by privatizing eventually did not reduce costs and in fact had to sue to get out of the arrangement.

Please address homelessness, crime and policing and stay “hands off” our library.

Thank you,

Mary Quinlan

**From:** [Matthew Haynes](#)  
**To:** [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\); Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** HB Library  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 10:48:40 PM

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Dear HB City Council Members & Commission Members,

I've been a HB resident since 1985, most of my life. I was there when the Central Library expanded in 1994. I've used our Central Library throughout high school, college, and at other times to study for trade certificates. The library is truly our city's crown jewel - the library is part of Huntington Beach history and community. Giving the keys to a "for-profit" corporation is appalling. A "for profit" corporation has no obligation to legacy or community, but simply looks to cut costs, do band-aid work, and get a bottom line for its shareholders. Don't be a SELL OUT to our library.

Thanks,

Matt

**From:** [Michelle Johnson - Trinity](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library Books  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 10:36:07 PM

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Hi! I support parents' rights to choose what their kids read. We should not have sexually explicit materials accessible to children in our library.

Thank You!  
michelle johnson  
HB resident

**From:** [Roesner, Michelle](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Community and Library Commission  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 12:20:43 PM

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Good evening Commission Members,

I am writing to share one of the many concerns I have about the Request for Proposal for Managed Library Services. The company the Council is looking to contract with does not align with the Councilmembers stated direction. Mayor Van Der Mark requested that the Library not affiliate or fund the American Library Association (ALA). However, upon researching LS&S, I have found that this company proudly partners with the ALA. They have donated money, funded ALA scholarships and through a secondary company, LibraryIQ, they participate in every ALA conference, with presentations and a LARGE booth.

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/library-systems-%26-services-llc\\_lss-is-presenting-at-ala-this-year-hear-activity-6941058918215282689-qmnm?trk=public\\_profile\\_like\\_view](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/library-systems-%26-services-llc_lss-is-presenting-at-ala-this-year-hear-activity-6941058918215282689-qmnm?trk=public_profile_like_view)

<https://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2017/06/library-systems-services-supports-lita-spectrum-scholarship-future-library>

<https://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/donors/library-systems-services-llc-lssi>

Reviewing the Escondido Public Library Annual Report and Simi Valley Public Library Annual Report, I noticed both mentioned LibraryIQ. Upon looking into LibraryIQ, I found that the team at LibraryIQ are the same people as the Regional Library Advisors with LS&S.

<https://www.lsslibraries.com/who-we-are/>

<https://www.libraryiq.com/about-libraryiq>

LibraryIQ touts a feature called, DiversityIQ to help libraries “respond to DEI needs”

<https://www.libraryiq.com/diversityiq>

Some of the areas of focus are:

Young Adult Fiction/Romance/LGBTQ+  
Juvenile Fiction/Social Situations/Homosexuality  
Juvenile Fiction /LGBTQ+  
Comics & graphic novels/ LGBTQ+

Plus a couple more...

As you can see, this is the exact opposite of what Mayor Van Der Mark and other council members have promised the residence of Huntington Beach. Taking tax payer money and putting it into the

pockets of a company that supports ALA is a slap in the face and a deep betrayal to all those who supported them.

Thank you for your time

Michelle Roesner

**From:** [mtfbwy@socal.rr.com](mailto:mtfbwy@socal.rr.com)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Privatizing the PUBLIC LIBRARY  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 7:37:07 PM

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To the City Council:

We the public pay for the library with our taxes. The city council does not own the library. You do not have the right to do with it what you want. Central Library is an icon of Huntington Beach. Privatizing it will take that away from us.

Consider what you are doing to Huntington Beach.

Norma Mazure



SENT VIA EMAIL

April 10, 2024

City of Huntington Beach Community & Library Services Commission Members:

The Orange County Employees Association (OCEA) is the exclusive bargaining unit representative for the Huntington Beach Management Employees Organization (HBMEO). We represent the city's management level public servants who assist the public in every department. We members pride ourselves on the extraordinarily high standards we set serving the citizens of Huntington Beach. HBMEO proudly represents the positions of Community and Library Services Manager, Principal Librarian and Senior Librarian.

Since 1909, the Huntington Beach Public Library system has been a source of widespread community pride. Our Library and its professional staff are consistently recognized as leaders among their peers. It is shocking to us that the City has now authorized the issuing of a request for proposal to outsource the Library and is doing so in such a rushed and hurried manner.

The recent City Council action approving the "Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposals for Managed Library Services" is sending shockwaves across the city and is already having significant negative impacts on the morale of the municipal workforce. Potentially replacing dedicated and experienced City workers with a for-profit private entity will irreparably harm the City – far beyond the Library itself. The negative image resulting from outsourcing will seriously damage the City's ability to recruit and retain quality public servants.

Any promise or claim that the quality of services the Library currently provides will continue under a for-profit entity is simply untrue. Long term dedicated public servants provide higher quality services than short-term outsourced workers. We are aware that Riverside outsourced its library system, but with all due respect, shouldn't Huntington Beach hold itself to a higher standard?

Our association members are long-time public servants. They have served multiple City Councils and dedicated their careers to this City. The issuance of an RFP absent any communication with the impacted workforce will long haunt the City. Don't let Huntington Beach become the City that tells employees, "If you loyally provide top-notch services, your reward will be to lose your job." What peace of mind can *any* public servant in the City have if the Library is outsourced?

HBMEO respectfully requests the Community and Library Services Commission to strongly advocate keeping library services in-house so that future generations of residents may continue to benefit from this treasured community resource.

Sincerely,

Charles Barfield, General Manager  
OCEA

and

Debra Jubinsky, Board President  
HBMEO

**From:** [Ruby Nunez](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Community & Library Services Commission Comment - 4/10/24  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 10:33:57 AM

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Hello,

I am a Huntington Beach community member writing in regards to this afternoon's Community & Library Services Commission meeting agenda topics.

In regards to the Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposals for Managed Library Services: As a community member with a strong understanding of our community's, specifically the Oak View community's, needs, private management of library services will have detrimental effects to the access our community has to literacy, educational, and supportive services. The public library system allows the families in our community to have spaces for education, bonding, and safety without cost. Ever since the Oak View branch has increased their programming for teenagers, we have seen a decrease of gang activity and disruptive behavior by our community's youth. Youth that previously had very limited educational engagement activities outside of school, are now being redirected to the safety and support the Oak View branch provides. Public libraries are one of the last places in our country that allows us to exist in its space free of charge, and that on top of that provides access to education and literacy tools that our communities need to live with dignity and support. The library system in Huntington Beach needs to remain public.

In regards to Resolution 2023-41 and Ordinance No. 4318 - Community Parent-Guardian Review Board: As a member of both the Huntington Beach community and the queer community, it is not difficult to reach between the lines and understand the covert purpose of this review board: to silence queer voices and education through literature. The entire concept of book banning is absurd, have we not condemned it throughout history, did learning about book burnings in Nazi Germany not shock us? At what point does vetting books "to protect our children", in the words of mayor Van Der Mark, become an effort to shield them from the diversity of the world, and the reality of their own identities, and to restrict a parent's rights to choose what their children read? I can speak from experience: not a single book I read has made me queer. But books helped me understand my identity and find confidence, comfort, and support. We cannot let queer children fall through the cracks because of a self-declared mission to somehow purify our library's book selections, and we cannot let parents lose their rights to choose books for their OWN children. ALL children deserve full and free access to age-appropriate information on their physical, emotional, and sexual development to keep them safe, happy, and healthy.

I hope that the numerous voices from your very own community matter in your hearts and minds, that our wellbeing as your constituents holds value. It is your duty and responsibility, as you knew when you accepted this role, to do right by them.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ruby Nuñez

**From:** [Scott](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Parent Guardian Review Board and Privatization  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 11:40:40 AM

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Dear library commission,

I strongly oppose the Parent Guardian Review Board and Privatization of our library. As a long time resident of Huntington Beach, the public library has been an invaluable resource that has been extremely well run. These changes are completely unnecessary and are a disservice to the residents of Huntington Beach. The patrons of the public library should have the freedom and choice to decide for themselves and their families what is appropriate. Freedom and choice are fundamental to this country, I expect my city to represent.

Scott Bauer

**From:** [Shirley Dettloff](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library Board  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 10:25:41 AM

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I hope that tonight you will take a courageous position and not a political one and vote against both proposals that are now facing our world famous library. As a Council Member I was liaison to the board and always remained neutral when I was present. You were selected because you are familiar with how libraries are managed and I am sure after reading all of the materials related to a bid process and those entities who are already managing libraries, you can take a courageous stand, and stand independently and do what is the best for our library system. Remember long after you and the Council are gone, what will remain are the very bad articles written about this issue. Look yourself in the mirror and know that you can be proud of your position. Remember how well our libraries are run, how professional the staff is, and how we have received national recognition. Do what is right and not what is political!

Shirley Dettloff

Former Mayor

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NOTE: Please update your address books to my new email address:  
[shirleydettloff36@gmail.com](mailto:shirleydettloff36@gmail.com)

**From:** [tjengland41@yahoo.com](mailto:tjengland41@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** HB Public Library  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 7:41:13 AM

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Please

keep our wonderful HB Library “ Public”! Please do not privatize our library in cahoots with Mr Posey, the “mag 4, partner.” It’s a major conflict of interest. Do not destroy our Public HB Library. And please establish public criteria for these people you’re turning over the power of buying books for our children. How dare you take this role from our wonderful qualified public children’s librarians.

Maga 4, leave our HB Public Library Alone!!!! Thelma England, 55 year HB resident

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Tim Steed](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Letter for Community & Library Services Commission  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 11:28:17 AM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-Artboard 1.png](#)  
[Commission Letter 4 10 DJ.pdf](#)

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Please see attached.

Thanks

**TIM STEED**  
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER



ORANGE COUNTY EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

d: 714-564-3227 | o: 714-835-3355 | w: [www.ocea.org](http://www.ocea.org)

**From:** [Valentina Bankhead](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** 4/10/24 Commission Meeting of Community & Library Services  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 1:01:04 PM

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I am writing to you today to show my support and encourage to the Community Library Commission and the HB City Council to add and create a review board for the libraries that are currently being looked at in regards to the perverse nature of the children's books. The books that show violent context graphic pictures and the sexualized nature in general that are in the children's sections should most definitely be moved to the proper age location. I am not talking about poo poo books. This is a serious matter and the ALA and the predatory behavior of the left is becoming a trend to make light of a very serious matter. Our children do not need to be looking and browsing at books that are not age appropriate.

The parents have a right to have these books checked out with their permission. And if not a child does not need to be looking at such books. I fully support a review board and the parent card permission for the libraries.

Also the outsourcing is extremely necessary if the librarians cannot follow instructions in their job description. Also a huge cost savings for Huntington Beach. Being defiant is not being brave. It is simply being incompetent and inconsistent in the needs and help to the community and the children that attend the libraries. If this were any other job, they would be given a pink slip and relieved of their duties. Period.

Thank you for your time.  
-Valentina Bankhead  
Huntington Beach resident since 2018

**From:** [Wally Medal](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Stop privatization  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 8:35:07 AM

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I support no privatization of our public library!  
Michelle Medal

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Wendy Rincon](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Tonight's Commission Meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 12:59:47 PM

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Hello,

I would like to express my very deep concern regarding the Parent-Guardian Commission that has been enacted. I believe that it will lead to books being rejected by a small group of amateurs. I am concerned about the lead time that it will now take to have books added to our library. Can we expect the commission to meet on a bi-monthly basis in order to maintain the level of book additions that we currently have at the library? Also, how will the 21 books needed for Commission members be purchased? Will the City of HB have to budget for 21 books for each member times however many books they will be reviewing? I don't see how that is efficient nor budget conscious. I am also deeply concerned that there is no appeal process for residents. I think that this will lead to books being banned from the library that the Commission does not believe in from a religious / cultural standpoint.

The authorization to issue a request for proposals for "managed library services" i.e. privatization is absolutely against what a public library stands for. This is not about money but about controlling books and our librarians. Absolutely insane not to have residents vote on this massive change to our crown jewel, the HB Library Services.

Sincerely,  
**Wendy Rincon**  
714-501-9499