

From: drynerson@earthlink.net
To: [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\)](#); supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: Comments on the 1/21/2025 Agenda
Date: Sunday, January 19, 2025 2:05:39 PM

Meeting Date: 1/21/2025

Agenda Item No. 18 (24-797)

City Council -

Why am I not at all surprised that this city council once again demonstrates its willingness to put its personal agenda over that of the citizens?

For the second council meeting in a row, the city council decides to delay taking appropriate action on, not one, but two petitions successfully qualified by the citizens of Huntington Beach. Last meeting, despite having the letter of certification in hand from the OC Registrar of Voters for the petition to repeal the citizens book review committee, it was not on the agenda. Not only that, the city did not even acknowledge receipt of that certification until nearly a week later.

Similarly, the city was in receipt of the certification for the petition on private operation of the library dated December 19, 2024, but failed to acknowledge it until January 2nd of this year.

It seems that this city council just can't figure out how to comply with the law and honor the work of the citizens in any sort of timely manner. So now, nearly five weeks after the first petition was certified and a month after the second was certified, this council decides that both issues need to "be studied" for up to 30 days. Since the first would simply repeal an ordinance that the council added, but has not put into use, and the second would simply make the council get approval from the citizens before any further attempts to privatize the operations of our library, there's really not a lot to study. It's also study that the council should have undertaken before taking the actions that led to these petitions in the first place. There is essentially zero cost to the city to accept the petitions' requests, so the only other item to consider is the cost of an election. That cost didn't deter this city council when they wanted to force measures A, B, & C onto a primary ballot at significant cost to the city. So why should that impact the decision now?

You act with alacrity when Mr. Burns wants to spout off his desire to agree with the Governor of another state or wants to disagree with the Governor of our state, yet find it ever so difficult to follow the law in a timely way in response to the citizens you are supposed to represent.

You put an item on the **consent** calendar for Mr. Strickland without having done the appropriate analysis, let alone consulting with the citizenry, yet "need to study" items that would simply return city operations to the status quo, and are sponsored by a significant percentage of the populace.

In short, you are not representing the citizens you were elected to represent – you are trying to force your personal agendas down our throats, and we are sick of it.

David Rynerson

Huntington Beach, CA 92647

From: [Russell Neal](#)
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: Jan 21, 2025 Meeting Item 18 (24-797)
Date: Sunday, January 19, 2025 6:43:52 PM

I have several comments on the subject petition:

1. It refers to additional selection criteria added as section 2.30.090, but I do not see a link to that new section so as to know what these new criteria are.
2. During the circulation of this petition, the legislature enacted AB 1825 which deals with the same topic. The impact of this on the petition needs to be analyzed and reconciled.
3. The underlying problem remains. Some people want to use our government controlled libraries and schools to sexually groom our children. This City Council has righteously stood against this, and both the petitions and AB 1825 are wicked attempts to continue the grooming. I encourage the Council to continue to stand against this by every legal means possible.

Russ Neal
Huntington Beach
HBRA President

From: [Carol Daus](#)
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org; [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\)](#)
Subject: Agenda Items 18 & 19, File Nos. 24-797 and 25-033
Date: Monday, January 20, 2025 9:40:07 AM

Dear City Council Members,

Given the strong display of public support for our city's library through the petition campaign, I urge you to rescind the creation of the Parent/Guardian Review Board and allow the citizens of Huntington Beach to have a voice in determining whether public library operations should be outsourced to private entities. This would promote much-needed unity in our city and it would prevent our city from incurring the expenses of a special election as well as the costs of subsequent litigation involving the state's new law, The California Freedom to Read Act.

The 6-month petition campaign (resulting in 17,000+ signatures) revealed two important facts:
1) Huntington Beach residents believe HBPL is one of the crown jewels of the community and
2) HB citizens of all political persuasions believe that the public library is a nonpartisan entity that does not require fixing in terms of its management and collection.

If some of you are still concerned that there are sexually explicit or pornographic books in the *children's library*, I'd be happy to meet with you there so you can show me those books or materials. We never received a list of inappropriate books from the City Council or City Attorney, which makes it difficult to understand why a costly Parent/Guardian Review Board should even be considered.

Thank you,

Carol Daus
Huntington Beach resident, 30 years
Board Member
Friends of the Huntington Beach Public Library
714-235-1187
caroldaus@gmail.com

From: [Paula Schaefer](#)
To: [Barnes , Lisa Lane](#); [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\)](#); supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: Vote YES and accept the Certificates and Vote YES to adopt the Petitions" Ordinances
Date: Monday, January 20, 2025 11:32:50 AM

Mayor and City Council Members:

Vote YES to accept the Certificates:

I encourage you to vote YES on each agenda item accepting the Certificate of Verification of Signatures.

Vote NO to requesting a study:

I strongly encourage you to forgo the study.

As you should know, the Elections Code allowed the City Council to obtain a study while the signatures were being gathered. The City Council could have requested a study upon learning that each petition met the prima facie number of signatures, which occurred on October 28 for Item #18 and on November 25 for Item # 19. Waiting until the County Registrar of Voters certified the signatures was an option, but was not necessary. Doing so now, is a delay tactic and could result in additional costs for the City for a special election.

Vote YES to adopt the Petitions' Ordinances:

You can see from the number of signatures of residents that there is tremendous support for our City's beloved Public Library and its librarians. It should remain managed as it currently is without the unnecessary committee and by public employees.

Voting YES and adopting the Petitions' Ordinances is cost-effective and will ensure that the Public Library continues its exemplary service to our community.

As you are likely aware, 2025 is the 50th anniversary of the Central Library and your YES vote to adopt each Petition as written would be the appropriate action to ensure that the Huntington Beach Public Library continues as the crown jewel of our city.

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Paula A. Schaefer

From: [Tamara Colby](mailto:Tamara.Colby@surfcity-hb.org)
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org; [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\)](#)
Subject: Item #18 Community-Parent Guardian Review Board and #19 Public Operation of Library Services
Date: Monday, January 20, 2025 6:29:27 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from tamara.colby@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor and Honorable City Council:

For item #18, a Petition to repeal Ordinance No. 4318 Deleting Huntington Beach Municipal Code Chapter 2.66 - Community-Parent Guardian Review Board for Procurement of Children's Library Materials, and Adding Section 2.30.090 - Selection and Use of Library Materials

Please select A) Adopt Resolution No. 2025-04, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach Accepting the Certificate as to Verification of Signatures on Petition from the Orange County Registrar of Voters Regarding the Initiative Petition Entitled "An Ordinance to Amend the Huntington Beach Municipal Code by Deleting Chapter 2.66 Thereof Entitled 'Community Parent Guardian Review Board for Procurement of Children's Library Materials' and Adding Section 2.30.090 Thereto Entitled 'Selection and Use of Library Materials;'"

The community has spoken thru this petition and would like to repeal the ordinance. The A option avoids costly elections and it ends the divisiveness that has plagued our community since the ordinance was first introduced. All of us that worked on the petitions represent a broad spectrum of the citizenry, and I believe this is what the public wants. HB has an exceptional library, professional librarians and a system in place to review any questionable books. Do the right thing, the most professional and cost effective, and repeal the ordinance.

For Item #19, a Petition for An Ordinance to Amend the Huntington Beach Municipal Code by Adding New Section 2.30.100, Entitled "Public Operation of Library Services".

Please select option A) Adopt Resolution No. 2025-03, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach Accepting the Certificate as to Verification of Signatures on Petition from the Orange County Registrar of Voters Regarding the Initiative Petition Entitled "An Ordinance to Amend the Huntington Beach Municipal Code by Adding New Section 2.30.100, Entitled 'Public Operation of Library Services;'"

The many signatures gathered represent strong public support against outsourcing and privatization. There is no need to outsource library operations, especially when there will be no appreciable cost savings, the loss of all the volunteer help, and fundraising. Librarians are the value add of a library and to replace them with a third-party operator would destroy the experience and the quality of services that the public deserve.

Sincerely,

Tamara Colby

From: [Larry Slonim](#)
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: Supplemental Comments on Items #17 and #18 of the HB City Council Agenda, dated January 21, 2025
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 12:42:55 AM
Attachments: [Items #17 and 18 - CC Agenda for 1.21.25 - Letter to Mayor and CC 1.20.25.docx](#)

You don't often get email from laryslonim@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Mayor and City Councilmembers:

For my wife and I, the following observations and questions raised by Carol Daus (copied below and indicated in italics), which were published in the January 9th edition of the LA Times Daily Pilot, fully resonate with our past and current opinions of this City Council and the City Attorney.

Supporters of Huntington Beach Public Library reached a major milestone last month when the O.C. Registrar of Voters provided signature verification services on a citizen-led ballot initiative seeking to overturn the controversial children's library book review board. Over 17,000 Huntington Beach residents signed the petition to prevent political appointees from being the primary decision-makers in determining what books are available for youths 17 and under.

Despite the strong community support for this measure, City Atty. Michael Gates publicly declared last year that he will sue the state over the new law, "California Freedom to Read Act," to ensure that the book-banning review board can go forward in Huntington Beach. Last fall, in an interview with radio host John Kobylt, Gates stated that books in the children's section of our library are "obscene ... some call them pornographic, lewd, sexually explicit ... A lot of uh, you know, homosexual ... sex content."

I wish our city attorney would provide a list of the books he described in the interview. As a longtime library volunteer and supporter, I have never seen these books in the children's section. In fact, the only books that have been relocated from the children's section to the adult section, based on a directive from the city attorney, are potty training and puberty books. Where is the pornography? If our city attorney and City Council members are so concerned, why don't they show us?

Additionally, as Cathey Ryder so succinctly and publicly stated on January 2, 2025 (again, in the LA Times Daily Pilot): "Now that the ballot initiative petitions regarding Huntington Beach public libraries have both been qualified for the ballot, what will the openly partisan Huntington Beach City Council choose to do? Citizen-led ballot petitions are examples of democracy in action. Our taxpayer dollars have built and sustained the city's public libraries for over 100 years. We deserve the right to vote on how our public institutions will acquire materials and be managed. Will we get to?"

Susan and I absolutely share the concerns of Carol Daus, Cathey Ryder and SO many other registered voters that reside and love living here, WILL WE? And if so, WHEN and HOW will we?

We would suggest and support a special election that combines both proposed ballot measures, to simplify and reduce total costs.

Sincerely,

Larry and Susan Slonim
(714) 357-9600

From: [Mary Ann Celinder](#)
To: [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\)](#); supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: Library
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 8:24:00 AM

We did the work and submitted the 2 petitions on time for the voters to decide on the spring ballot.

In a partisan play of delay, the city clerk, city attorney and city council have delayed action on these items. If we didn't have a new inept clerk, this should have been on the December agenda. This could force a special election at no small expense. That's on you, after all, the city is made of money.

There is bipartisan citywide objection to the actions against the library. The will of the people should not be delayed until the '26 election. You need to vote to accept the petitions and leave the libraries alone. It will take time, and money, but we shall persist and you will lose. We will not let you further damage the city libraries.

Mary Ann Celinder

Celinder's Glass Design
21341 Fleet Lane
Huntington Beach Ca 92646

studio 714 962 8361
cell 714 504 8361

www.customleadedglass.com

From: [Melanie Tioleco-Cheng](#)
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org; [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\)](#)
Subject: Agenda item 24-797 and 24-882
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 8:51:27 AM

You don't often get email from melanietcm@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council,

To say I was disappointed to see that you are declaring Huntington Beach a 'non-sanctuary city' would be shouting or whispering my words into the void. It seems like even with the previous council majority, any time a huge number of HB citizens would speak our words, we are ignored.

But I would be remiss in not saying anything: PLEASE STOP WITH THE POLITICAL THEATRICALS. There is no reason to declare HB as a non-sanctuary city.

Regarding the library committee, I'm glad you're recognizing the petition. Shouldn't it be put to a vote of the citizens, rather than decided upon by the four majority last vote? There are more than 16,000 HB citizens asking for it to be put on the ballot.

Sincerely,
Melanie Tioleco-Cheng
HB citizen for over 20 years

From: [Paula Schaefer](#)
To: supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org
Subject: Review this letter regarding Agenda Items No. 18 and 19 prior to City Council Meeting Agenda today
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 8:55:20 AM
Attachments: [City Clerk re Files 24-797 and 25-0330 dated 01 17 2025.pdf](#)

Mayor and City Council Members:

I urge you to review this letter regarding these Agenda items and obtain the accurate information prior to this evening's City Council meeting. You need accurate information prior to making your decisions on these important agenda items.

--

Paula A. Schaefer

**Paula A. Schaefer
4242 Calhoun Drive
Huntington Beach, CA 92649**

January 17, 2025

Via email only
Lisa Lane Barnes, City Clerk
City of Huntington Beach
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Re: File Nos. 24-797 and 25-033

Ms. Barnes,

I have the following comments regarding each of these Files.

Regarding File No. 25-033:

The Analysis states: "The ROV delivered a *Certificate of Verification of Signatures on Petition* (Certificate) for the Petition on January 2, 2025." However, the Certificate as attached to Resolution 2025-03, is dated December 19, 2024.

I believe that December 19, 2024, is the accurate date that the Certificate was delivered, and therefore the date for calculating the last date by which a report analysis under Elections Code Section 9212(b) must be presented to the City Council. Indeed, under the statute, the time for presentation of such a report has expired.

Regarding File No. 24-797 and 25-033:

Each item omits two critical pieces of information, one in the Analysis and one in the Recommended Action.

The Analysis omits that the City Council has the option of calling a special election to vote on the ordinance. Indeed, the City Council could call a Special Election and request that the County Registrar of Voters consolidate that election with the upcoming April 29 Special Election for the State Senate, potentially saving the City hundreds of thousands of dollars.

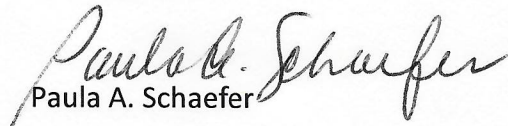
The staff report states that the City Council has three options: adopt the ordinance, direct staff to prepare a report on the effect of the proposed ordinance, or submit the ordinance to a vote at the next general election. But while the staff report correctly references Elections Code 9215, which allows for an election to be called pursuant to Section 1405, subdivision (b) of section 1405 was omitted. This omission is critical because that Elections Code section (b) requires

"[I]f the governing body calls a section election pursuant to this subdivision, the election shall be held not less than 88 days nor more than 103 days after the order of the election." Please correct that information and ensure that the City Council is aware that it has the option to call a special election.

Similarly, the Recommended Action makes no mention of the City Council's ability to call for a special election. Please correct this.

I look forward to your prompt and detailed responses to these questions.

Sincerely,


Paula A. Schaefer

Cc: Michael E. Gates, City Attorney
Huntington Beach City Council

From: [Fikes, Cathy](#)
To: [Moore, Tania](#)
Subject: FW: item 18, 24-787, Petition to remove the book ban
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 9:46:25 AM

From: cornetto45@earthlink.net <cornetto45@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2025 9:07 PM
To: CITY COUNCIL (INCL. CMO STAFF) <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: item 18, 24-787, Petition to remove the book ban

Dear City Council

Please move forward with getting this onto the ballot.

When will the 21 member parent guardian committee, the book banning committee be formed under the current city ordinance? What is the cause of the delay?

Charlie Jackson, a 23 year resident of Huntington Beach

From: [Fikes, Cathy](#)
To: [Moore, Tania](#)
Subject: FW: Comments on Item #17 and #18 of the HB City Council Agenda, dated January 21, 2025
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 9:46:51 AM
Attachments: [Items #17 and 18 - CC Agenda for 1.21.25 - Letter to Mayor and CC 1.20.25.docx](#)

From: Larry Slonim <laryslonim@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 12:43 AM
To: CITY COUNCIL (INCL. CMO STAFF) <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: Comments on Item #17 and #18 of the HB City Council Agenda, dated January 21, 2025

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Larry and Susan Slonim
(714) 357-9600