

**From:** [Alan Youngkin](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Plaque for HB Central Library  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:36:07 AM

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You don't often get email from alan\_youngkin@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I am a long time HB resident and a frequent visitor of our wonderful library. I do not approve of the current commemorative plaque design. It should focus on the library and not make a political or religious statement. Furthermore, I do not believe that the cost of the plaque should be taken out of the library funding. If the city council want their names on it, they should personally pay all costs.

Thank you for forwarding this to the city council.

John Youngkin

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**From:** [Amanda Garcia](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** File 25-094 | Approval of Plaque Design and Language for the Huntington Beach Public Library 50th Anniversary  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:56:55 PM

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You don't often get email from ascrnm73@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello-

Regarding the 50th anniversary HB Library plaque - I do not believe the plaque design reflects the spirit of the library. Please remove the neo-political acronym and choose words that reflect the spirit of the great resource this library has been to our community. I grew up using the libraries in Huntington Beach, and have raised my child here as well. We love the library. Please properly honor its history.

Thank you-

Amanda KayVolta Garcia

**From:** [Andrew Martinez](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Community & Library Services Commission comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:59:40 PM

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You don't often get email from atmartinez\_4@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I write this to say I oppose the installment of an expensive plaque at the Central Library. The plaque is a wasteful use of resources that could be better spent on maintaining and improving the library's services. The plaque would contribute little to the culture of Huntington Beach. The city already has something over a reputation as a place that privileges the wealthy over others. If a plaque must be made for the 50th anniversary, I suggest removing the "Magical, Alluring, Galvanizing, Adventurous" slogan. This slogan is intellectually empty, conveying little about the Central Library. Additionally, its use of the M.A.G.A. acronym, the same as the Make America Great Again slogan of President Trump's campaign, risks alienating library patrons with opposing political views. Fostering political division will not reflect well on the city council. I urge them to consider my words here.

A patron of California libraries,  
Andrew Martinez

**From:** [Annelise Cramm](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** No MAGA Plaque In Our Library!  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:59:47 AM

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You don't often get email from [annelisecramm@gmail.com](mailto:annelisecramm@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

To Whom It May Concern,

Libraries are meant to be a neutral place of sanctuary and education for all citizens. How are people meant to feel when they are slapped by political branding as soon as they walk into a place that is meant to feel comfortable for everyone? If the intent is simply to communicate the magic of books, why should the acronym spell out MAGA rather than anything else? There are so many other acrostic poems that would make *far* more sense; it could spell LEARN (Legendary, Exquisite, Adventurous, Relaxing, Novel), or READ (Relaxing, Educational, Adventure, Daring), or any other more relevant acronym. It feels like someone is trying to get away with something, and I find it incredibly slimy.

Spelling out MAGA will only drive citizens away from the library. It will make it clear that books are only for certain people (people the Republican Party approves of, which, in my experience, are largely cisgender, heterosexual, and able-bodied Christians). Even if the political branding isn't explicit, the message is clear; people who don't agree with the current regime (or that the current regime dislikes) are not welcome. How does that fit into American values? What right does anyone have to make a public service like a library feel exclusionary?

I hope my words mean something to those who read them. I hope the Huntington Beach Central Library (which, by the way, is one of the most beautiful libraries I have ever been to, and I would be deeply saddened if I no longer felt safe going there) remains a comfortable, neutral space for all to enjoy. Thank you.

Regards,  
Annelise Cramm

**From:** [Barbara Leland](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Concern Regarding Proposed Library Branding  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:52:33 AM

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You don't often get email from bleland1@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mr. or Ms. Gomez

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed new wording for the library's branding: *Magical, Alluring, Galvanizing, Adventurous*.

While I appreciate the intent behind selecting words that celebrate the spirit of reading and discovery, the resulting acronym, MAGA, carries strong political connotations that could alienate members of our diverse community.

Public libraries should remain welcoming spaces for everyone, free from any association—intentional or not—with political slogans.

I urge you to reconsider this choice and select language that unites rather than divides.

Thank you for your time and for all you do to support our community through the library.

I hope you will take this concern into account as you move forward.

Thank you.

Barbara Leland  
714-742-5837

**From:** [barbara plueger](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** "MAGA"Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:47:33 PM

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

Hello C Gomez,

Respectfully request the words be changed to something that does not yield controversy, MAGA is not appropriate and does not represent the spirit of the library nor the city of HB.

Regards,  
Barbara Thomas

**From:** [Barbara Van Dine](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** MAGA-themed Library Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:42:44 AM

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You don't often get email from barb8980@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am a strong supporter of our library and the importance of a Public Library System. I welcome celebrating its 50 year anniversary with a commemorative plaque to be displayed in the library.

HOWEVER, to do so with a MAGA message is outrageous and appalling. MAGA is a combative, right-wing religious nationalist organization that stands AGAINST everything that the public library system is built on. To say they support the library is an insult to the wonderful institution and the great women and men who serve us at the library. This same group of individuals have banned books, removed the youth section of the library, changed the library card now requiring parental approval for anyone under 18 and tried to privatize the library to further control the collection.

**I STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH ANY CELEBRATION OF THE LIBRARY THAT INVOLVES A REFERENCE TO MAGA OR IS SPONSORED BY THIS GROUP.**

Our City Council and Commissions are non-partisan for a reason. This is completely against the City Charter and appalling.

YES, let's celebrate 50 years of the public library. Let the librarians celebrate it. Let the Friends of the Library celebrate it. Let the children celebrate it. But don't tag honoring an institution to 7 people who have tried to destroy it.

**From:** [BERYL BUNT](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** CON VOTE FOR PROPOSED LIBRARY PLAQUE  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:37:38 PM

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

# CON

I am **DEFINITELY IN OPPOSITION** to the proposed 50th anniversary plaque design for the library. The HB council is supposed to represent **ALL** the residents of HB not a political venue of their choice. T

With that being said, the proposed plaque does not represent those who use the **PUBLIC** library. Enough is enough!

**From:** [bbenton955@aol.com](mailto:bbenton955@aol.com)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to \$7,000 plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:24:10 AM

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You don't often get email from [bbenton955@aol.com](mailto:bbenton955@aol.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed expenditure and design of the plaque identified for the Library. In this current climate of budget constraints, it is simply wrong to spend Library funds on such an item at this time. Worse, this City Council has been virtually at WAR with the Library, the Staff, the volunteers, and the supporters of the PUBLIC LIBRARY for the last 3 years. It is a disgrace and obvious hyporacy to have such a plaque displayed anywhere in this city, but especially in the Library itself and paid for out of it's budget instead of using that money to enhance the Library.

Bonnie Benton

**From:** [Brynn Noble](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Please do not approve the proposed HB Library 50th Anniversary plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:09:50 AM

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You don't often get email from l.brynn.noble@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the members of the Community and Library Services Commission,

First, let me thank you for your service to Huntington Beach through the Community and Library Services Commission. I am a 40+ year HB resident, and I am grateful to you for your work to make our community great.

I am writing regarding the proposed HB Library 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plaque and I request that you do not approve it.

Thousands of dollars spent on a plaque is the epitome of government waste. Just imagine all the ways the library could benefit from those funds instead. Perhaps you could make improvements to the Veterans Resource Center in honor of our local service men and women. What a legacy a gift like that would be for your commission.

I understand that you may be past the point of allocating these funds for a plaque and your only decision is regarding its design. I am still not in support of you approving this design. The goal of this plaque design as it stands is clearly to celebrate the City Council and their personal political beliefs rather than celebrate the library and our great city. The design and color choices do not reflect the official brand of our city at all – a brand which should be a source of pride for us all. For that reason, it should not be approved.

Thank you,

Leslie Noble

**From:** [Buffie Channel](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Cc:** [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\)](#)  
**Subject:** Library Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:56:46 AM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)  
[image.png](#)  
[a3c415f3-3fbf-4cdc-98ed-faa7f313d8bd.png](#)

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To Community and Library Services Commission and City Council:

Why are you proposing this partisan \$7000 ugly monstrosity of a plaque for the Central Library's 50th anniversary? Did you actually get any input from the library historians and stewards on this abomination?

**Reasons to VOTE NO**

1). **It's ugly and sinister.** The library is a green beautiful architectural marvel and you chose this dark, sinister design with Proud Boy colors and Nazi graphics? The Nazi Luftwaffe Eagle? Really? Proud Boys colors?



2). **It's self-serving.** Why would the City Council insist on putting all of their names on this plaque when they have had nothing to do with making the library great. In fact their history of attacking the library and librarians is shameful and they don't deserve to have their names associated with the GREATNESS of our libraries!

3). **It's ridiculously expensive.** \$7000 coming out of the LIBRARY'S maintenance budget? All for your little narcissistic MAGA plaque? That is an unwise use of money and bloated expense that reeks of corruption. Who is the vendor making this? How many quotes did you get? Why is this \$7000 when the last large plaque at Gibbs Butterfly Park (heavy duty outdoor plaque) was \$1600 including design and installation?? That's poor fiscal management and we want to know who will be getting this gift of funds.

4). **It's petty.** This is such a stupid attempt to get "MAGA " on the wall of the library. This will cause the biggest case of simultaneous eyeroll for every intelligent and educated person who sees this eyesore.

5). **It's juvenile.** This screams 6th grade mean girl mentality and it's truly embarrassing that any adult signed on to this. My goodness, show some actual dignity! Seriously - Is this middle school?

6). **The words that spell out MAGA are laughable.** Alluring? I thought you all fought against "sexual content" in books and yet this is the best "A" word you could come up with? Who signed off on this joke? Galvanizing? Did Gracey just Google "words that start with G"!? You can't be serious. This is just embarrassing. Here is the definition of Alluring....Mysteriously attractive? Seductive? This is just - I can't stop laughing at the hypocrisy of this.

## Dictionary

Definitions from [Oxford Languages](#) · [Learn more](#)



*adjective*

powerfully and mysteriously attractive or fascinating; seductive.

To whomever designed and signed off on this - you are not serious people. You are vengeful, petty, narcissists with zero style.

Vote against this abomination and actually provide a plaque that doesn't break the bank and is as beautiful as the architectural marvel that it is meant to pay tribute to.

**This is not a MAGA vanity project for the government.**  
**This does not represent the beauty and importance of our library.**  
**Vote NO.**

Most sincerely,

B. Channel

**From:** [Carol Carser](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Cc:** [Wysocki, Ashley](#); [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\)](#)  
**Subject:** Community & Library Services Commission Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:43:48 AM

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

I am responding to agenda item #25-094 regarding the 50-year celebration plaque of the Central Library to be discussed/approved at the February 11, 2025 meeting. The design is deplorable and shameful for the many citizens and taxpayers whose contributions should be represented, and to include the many librarians and volunteers who created this peaceful and serene space for ALL residences and visitors. But, instead, there is an uneasy emotion surfacing of turmoil and divisiveness with the MAGA descriptors that are not expressing Central Library's unique attributes. Get back to common sense ideology! Underscore those who truly are passionate about modeling and sharing their literary "dreams" -- that of a "librarian" who enlightens its community by committing so much to lifelong learning. And, in my interpretation, that eagle emblem has an uncomfortable resemblance to the Neo-Nazi movement that has plagued our city for too long by the Proud Boys' intrusion in public places (they have personally insulted me and my family verbally by referring to us as "pedophile" and "communist" while walking on the pier!). And, why is it dominating the center of the plaque while OUR city's library logo sits quietly to the right? Scrap the eagle and its symbolic garnished corners! It's time to embrace the diversity of OUR community and look through the lense of a LIBRARIAN who promotes knowledge, success, ambition, identity, balance and harmony...

L = Literate

I = Integrity

B = "Bookworm"

R = Resourceful

A = Archivist

R = Respectful

I = Informative

A = Academic

N = Nondiscriminating

Respectfully submitted,

Carol and John Carser

(P.S. My computer was creating a bit of a temperament so sorry for duplicates)

**From:** [Carol Carser](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Community & Library Services Commission  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:11:46 AM

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

I am responding to agenda item #25-094 regarding the 50-year celebration plaque of the Central Library to be discussed/approved at the February 11, 2025 meeting. The design is deplorable and shameful for the many citizens and taxpayers whose contributions should be represented, and to include the many librarians and volunteers who created this peaceful and serene space for ALL residences and visitors. But, instead, there is an uneasy emotion surfacing of turmoil and divisiveness with the MAGA descriptors that are not expressing Central Library's unique attributes. Get back to common sense ideology! Underscore those who truly are passionate about modeling and sharing their literary "dreams" -- that of a "librarian" who enlightens its community by committing so much to lifelong learning. And, in my interpretation, that eagle emblem has an uncomfortable resemblance to the Neo-Nazi movement that has plagued our city for too long by the Proud Boys' intrusion in public places (they have personally insulted me and my family verbally by referring to us as "pedophile" and "communist" while walking on the pier!). And, why is it dominating the center of the plaque while OUR city's library logo sits quietly to the right? Scrap the eagle and its symbolic garnished corners! It's time to embrace the diversity of OUR community and look through the lense of a LIBRARIAN who promotes knowledge, success, ambition, identity, balance and harmony...

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Respectfully submitted,

Carol and John Carser

**From:** [Carol Carser](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Cc:** [Wysocki, Ashley](#); [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Community & Library Services Commission  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:30:45 AM

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

**From:** **Carol Carser** <[carolcarser@gmail.com](mailto:carolcarser@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2025 at 11:11 AM  
**Subject:** Community & Library Services Commission  
**To:** [cgomez@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:cgomez@surfcity-hb.org) <[cgomez@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:cgomez@surfcity-hb.org)>

I am responding to agenda item #25-094 regarding the 50-year celebration plaque of the Central Library to be discussed/approved at the February 11, 2025 meeting. The design is deplorable and shameful for the many citizens and taxpayers whose contributions should be represented, and to include the many librarians and volunteers who created this peaceful and serene space for ALL residences and visitors. But, instead, there is an uneasy emotion surfacing of turmoil and divisiveness with the MAGA descriptors that are not expressing Central Library's unique attributes. Get back to common sense ideology! Underscore those who truly are passionate about modeling and sharing their literary "dreams" -- that of a "librarian" who enlightens its community by committing so much to lifelong learning. And, in my interpretation, that eagle emblem has an uncomfortable resemblance to the Neo-Nazi movement that has plagued our city for too long by the Proud Boys' intrusion in public places (they have personally insulted me and my family verbally by referring to us as "pedophile" and "communist" while walking on the pier!). And, why is it dominating the center of the plaque while OUR city's library logo sits quietly to the right? Scrap the eagle and its symbolic garnished corners! It's time to embrace the diversity of OUR community and look through the lense of a LIBRARIAN who promotes knowledge, success, ambition, identity, balance and harmony...

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Respectfully submitted,

Carol and John Carser

**From:** [Carol Yahoo](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Cc:** [Carol D](#)  
**Subject:** Library  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:54:33 PM

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[You don't often get email from csiggy@ymail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Please keep your political agenda and Maga slogans out of our library. We are a country that separates religion and government.

Let's keep  
It that way.  
Carol DiLibero

**From:** [Cathy Morrill](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:59:48 AM

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

I vote a very strong NO for this plaque. VERY SELF SERVING!

It doesn't even incorporate what the Central Library has meant to so many residents and the families of Huntington Beach.

How about “**L**earning, **O**pen-minded, **V**ital, **E**ffective = **L**OVE

Way better than MAGA!

Regards,

Cathy Morrill  
40 year HB Resident

**From:** [Cheryl Ridpath](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** No to the maga plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:52:33 AM

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[You don't often get email from [cridpath@yahoo.com](mailto:cridpath@yahoo.com). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

It's not appropriate and not reflective of half of the constituents in this city. No to the plaque.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Christina Flowers](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed library sign  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:12:33 PM

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You don't often get email from cmoramar1030@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear HB City Council members,

I am against the proposed commemorative plaque celebrating the 50th anniversary of the library. I believe it is an extremely poor use of funds, especially in light of the fact that privatization of the library to potentially "save money" has been discussed so much in the last year.

Further, the plaque is in extremely poor taste. Politics do not belong in the library. The proposed plaque is obviously very partisan and in poor taste during a very divisive national political landscape and has no place at our library which serves all, no matter their political affiliation.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Christina Flowers  
Tax-paying citizen

**From:** [Christopher Rini](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Cc:** [supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org)  
**Subject:** Communication re: File #25-094 Approval of Plaque Design and Language for the Huntington Beach Public Library 50th Anniversary  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:56:01 AM

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

To whom it may concern,

I request that the Community and Library Services Commission reject the current design for Item 25-094, the Central Library 50th anniversary plaque. As presented, the proposed design is visually confusing with a multiplicity of graphics and competing typefaces. Is the eagle with two flags meant to be a throwback to the Bicentennial or Civil War reenactments?

The verbal message is equally confusing. It says, "Celebrating 50 Years," but HBPL opened in 1909. The reader has to get halfway down before inferring that the plaque celebrates 50 years of Huntington Beach Central Library. Also, "Magical, Alluring, Galvanizing, Adventurous" is left of center. (The word "alluring," feels slightly cringeworthy. For all of the controversy that librarians are "groomers" and "pedophiles," why would City Council and the Community and Library Services Commission want their names directly below a word that's a synonym for "seductive?")

The Richard and Dion Neutra-designed Central Library is a marvel. It's Brutalism that's actually nice. It is an early example of the "book tower" library concept found at the Beinecke Library at Yale and Seattle Public Library. Central Library should be rightfully celebrated on its golden anniversary in April, but it deserves better than this. Let us treat this design as a first draft and revise it to something worthy of Huntington Beach and Huntington Beach Public Library.

Christopher Rini



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

**From:** [Clara Mora](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** NO PLAQUE  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:31:23 AM

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

Please stop wasting our tax money on stupid things like this. Focus on what is actually important for the community.

Clara Mora- HB Resident

**From:** [Cody Cleary](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Regarding Plaque Design and Cost Dear  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:46:43 PM

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You don't often get email from codycleary4citycouncil@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed plaque design, particularly regarding its cost and the messaging it conveys. Firstly, I believe the plaque is overpriced, and I question whether alternatives were considered to ensure we are making the best use of taxpayer funds. In a time when we are exploring ways to cut costs, spending this amount on a plaque seems inconsistent and unnecessary. Please don't get me wrong I'm in favor of recognizing achievements but this is not how you do it Additionally, I have strong reservations about the wording, which appears to carry a political agenda.

The library should be a neutral space that welcomes everyone, and it is crucial that we don't use our public resources to promote any specific viewpoint. Moreover, it is concerning to see that while there have been efforts to outsource library operations for cost-saving purposes, funds are still being allocated to this plaque. This approach raises questions about our priorities and the treatment of library staff who are vital to our community's success. Lastly, the intention behind placing names on the plaque suggests that there may be a personal agenda at play rather than a focus on collective community service. This type of messaging is not appropriate for our library.

I hope my concerns will be taken into account as we move forward with this decision. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best regards,  
Cody Cleary

**From:** [C RFord](#)  
**To:** [supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org)  
**Cc:** [Wysocki, Ashley](#); [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on Plaque for HB Library's 50th - Vote NO  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:42:39 PM

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You don't often get email from [crford78@yahoo.com](mailto:crford78@yahoo.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

To Whom It May Concern:

As an Orange County resident and patron of our public library's I must speak out on today's vote regarding the plaque for Huntington Beach's library. From what I could find online, I believe my comment will be received past when it may be considered, but as I cannot be there in person and just learned of this meeting, I am hoping it may be considered none-the-less.

I encourage you all to vote "NO" on this design and wording of this plaque.

1. The design and wording are mere political propaganda which have no place on our public institutions paid for with tax payer dollars which should be Neutral in their politics. Learn from the mistakes of the Confederacy and others and do not make our public library a political tool when it should not be. This does not serve the people or our library. Instead it is wasting money and not paying proper homage to this lovely 50 year legacy, but rather using it to uplift a political ideology.
2. The wording "In God We Trust" also does not belong on a public institution and integral part of our community at large as it disenfranchises those who do not believe in a Christian god and is rooted in the legacy of McCarthyism which unfairly and unjustly prosecuted those who were different in their ideologies including political, religious, sexuality, etc.
3. The words being used to spell out M.A.G.A. are not reflective of what a library truly is and should be OR what this library really represents to this community. Were the people of Huntington Beach asked for input on what their library means to them? Far better word choices and design options exist than those that were simply chosen to spell out a political ideology and force this version of M.A.G.A. on our community.
4. While I am in support of commemoration of key events with plaques, statues, benches, etc, if the option were to better serve the library and the people of our community, I would say that there are far more effective ways to support and uplift them than this particular plaque design or a plaque at all. Additional funding for library programming would be my first choice. ex. 50 extra celebratory story times for little ones this year OR added books or equipment OR bringing in theatrical groups or artists to present OR anything else that makes our libraries such great public and community institutions.

In short, this plaque, and particularly its offensive design which is not inclusive of our community as a whole, needs to be rethought and recreated in a way that will not only commemorate this special anniversary occasion but also serve all of the people of Huntington Beach far better than this tasteless political pandering.

Sincerely,

Collette Rutherford

**From:** [DALIA CHAP](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose MAGA plaque!  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:55:16 AM

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I vote against the MAGA plaque!!

It's an atrocity that this would even be considered. Please consider the rights and feelings of all of the residents of HB and not just those that are maga.

I have been a resident of HB for 20 years. I love this city. Please respect my opinion and those who share my sentiment. We can find a non-partisan way to celebrate this amazing city.

Thank you  
Dalia Armstrong

**From:** [Deanna Daniels, LMFT](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Cc:** [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\)](#)  
**Subject:** 50th Anniversary Library Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:25:49 PM

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

To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of Huntington Beach for more than 20 years, I have concerns about the library plaque proposed to honor and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Central Park Library. I don't believe it is a coincidence that the acronym "MAGA" is centrally located on the plaque. In a time of great divisiveness in our country and in our city, I feel this could add to the divisiveness in our city and send the wrong message about our beloved library.

On an equally important note, this plaque is reportedly \$7,000 in cost which seems like an exorbitant amount, especially when our Mayor Pro Tem Casey McKeon recently described participation in the Be Well program as a "luxury item". Is it possible for the City Council to be transparent about the bid process (if any) for this plaque?

As resident and voting constituent in Huntington Beach, I am vehemently against the purchase of this plaque and urge the City Council to reconsider.

**Deanna Daniels, LMFT**

*Make a wish, take a chance, make a change*

Due to the non-secure nature of e-mail, I cannot ensure the confidentiality of this communication. Please use discretion when sending information that is sensitive in nature. Also, please note that I do not maintain 24-hour access to e-mail accounts or voicemails.

**From:** [Denay Dunson](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns about the library crest  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:58:18 AM

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You don't often get email from [denay.s.dunson@gmail.com](mailto:denay.s.dunson@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

### To Whom It Should Concern:

I have lived in Huntington Beach for most of my life, and I used to be so proud to tell people where I was from. I attended Peterson Elementary school, Dwyer Middle School, Oceanview High school and then Golden West College. I have worked for the Huntington Beach Art Center as a city employee myself. All of this to say, I have vested a huge portion of my life in to being a proud member of the Huntington Beach community. However, the pride that I once had in our beautiful beach city has been completely overwhelmed by disgust and shame at the way the city is changing. Huntington Beach has become a cesspool of racism, homophobia and hatred and these changes are being brought by our very own city council members. I have seen the crest that certain city council members are trying to put on our library and it makes me sick. Putting "MAGA" on that crest after how hard the employees and citizens of this city had to fight to keep our library public is a spit in the face to our community. Right wing, conservative hatred has no place in our city and does not represent us as a community. Trying to sneak those ideologies on to the library crest is malicious, petty and incredibly tacky. Our city council needs to try to represent the entire community that they work for, and remember that they do in fact work for the people that live here and pay the taxes that keep our city functioning. Remember that you don't just represent your rich friends that you rub elbows with at your country club. Huntington beach is largely made up of hard working, open minded, loving people. Please work towards making Huntington Beach the safe, open and welcoming city it once was so we citizens can be proud to say we are from Huntington Beach again.

Thank you.

Denay Dunson

**From:** [Destiny Lee](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:00:08 AM

---

You don't often get email from destiny.lee.lin@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed anniversary plaque for the library. While I fully support honoring the history and contributions of the library, I respectfully disagree with several elements of the design and message that I believe do not align with the library's purpose as an inclusive, neutral space for all members of our community.

First and foremost, I object to the forced inclusion of the MAGA initialism. The phrase carries strong political connotations that may alienate members of the community who hold diverse viewpoints. The library is a space intended for education, learning, and unity, and it is important that its symbols reflect these values rather than serve as political statements.

Additionally, I have concerns about the use of the words "alluring" and "galvanizing" in relation to the library's message. While these words may hold value in some contexts, they do not seem to represent the library's true mission. A library is a place of knowledge, critical thinking, and intellectual exploration, and I believe the language should reflect that spirit of open-mindedness rather than being overly evocative or sensationalized.

Finally, the inclusion of the "In God We Trust" motto, the eagle emblem, and draped flags, while potentially symbolic of national pride, do not represent the diverse community the library serves. These symbols may resonate with some, but they fail to encompass the range of beliefs, values, and identities that make our community unique. I believe it is vital that the library remain a space that welcomes all individuals, regardless of their religious or political affiliations.

In conclusion, I ask the City Council to reconsider the inclusion of these elements in the proposed plaque. It is essential that the library's symbols and messages reflect the values of inclusivity, neutrality, and respect for all individuals. I trust that the Council will take these concerns into account when making decisions that affect the library and its role in our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,  
Destiny Martindill

**From:** [Dina Chavez](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#); [supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org)  
**Subject:** Central Library 50th Anniversary Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:46:50 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-4zg1xkmz.png](#)  
[Members of the Huntington Beach Community.pdf](#)

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

Dina Chavez  
Friends of the Huntington Beach Library  
President@fotlhb.com  
714-414-8712  
fotlhb.com





**FRIENDS OF THE  
HUNTINGTON BEACH PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**  
[www.fotlhb.com](http://www.fotlhb.com)

Members of the Huntington Beach Community & Library Services Commission,

As representatives of the Friends of the Huntington Beach Public Library, we are compelled to express our strong disapproval of the proposed plaque at the Huntington Beach Central Library in honor of its 50th Anniversary. The proposed plaque undermines the very principles our beloved library stands for.

The Huntington Beach Public Library is a cherished institution in our community, dedicated to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all. Our library is a sanctuary for learning, creativity, and cultural enrichment, serving people from all walks of life, regardless of their political beliefs or affiliations. The proposed plaque, however, carries a highly partisan and divisive connotation that is antithetical to the Library's values of neutrality and inclusivity.

Celebrating the Central Library's 50th Anniversary should be an occasion that brings our community together, not one that promotes division and discord. Installing a plaque that has become synonymous with political controversy will only alienate a significant portion of our community and undermine the library's role as a neutral and inclusive institution.

Furthermore, taking funds for this plaque from the library maintenance budget is unacceptable. The Friends of the Library would be happy to donate an appropriate plaque to honor the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Central Library, ensuring that maintenance funds are preserved for their intended purpose.

We urge the Commission to reconsider this misguided proposal and instead seek alternative ways to commemorate this milestone that truly reflects the library's commitment to unity, diversity, and education. We propose celebrating the library's rich history, diverse programs, and contributions to the community through inclusive and non-partisan events and displays that honor its legacy and future.

The Huntington Beach Public Library deserves to be celebrated in a manner that respects its mission and unites our community. We implore you to make a decision that upholds the values of our beloved and revered library.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We hope that you will reconsider the proposed installation and work with us to find a more appropriate way to celebrate the library's 50th anniversary.

Friends of the Huntington Beach Public Library

**From:** [ELEANOR GRUENEBAUM](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Please....Plaque NOT Appropriate  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:46:11 PM

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You don't often get email from 1egreentree@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

City government really offends with this plaque design. Can't you come up with a design that is a. not so militaristic in its design...(no military function being commemorated) and b. more representative of a broader base of citizens?

There are thousands of citizens in HB ignored in a MAGA exclusive plaque. Really...it's insulting. Surely you can do better.

Sincerely

Eleanor Gruenebaum

Hunt. Bch. Resident and Property owner 46 years.

**From:** [Emma Walker](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Comments for city countil  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:40:09 AM

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[You don't often get email from egwdt22002@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

The design expected to be put up in the HB public library does not equally represent all HB residents. Those of us who are not represented by this administration and city council values do not want this design to be displayed...nor do we want to pay for it. Please reconsider adding a design that represents ALL HB residents.

Emma Walker  
Lifelong HB resident  
College student at Chapman University

**From:** [Frances Okura](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Re: the HB library's commemorative plaque celebrating its 50th year.  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:12:58 AM

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As a resident of our wonderful city of Huntington Beach, I've always thought we have the best, most attractive library. My family has always used the facility as a center of activity for borrowing books, attending children's hour, attending musical theatre in the auditorium, attending art shows, checking out the gift shop, and to stroll through the Central Park grounds to admire the library's architecture and surrounding landscape of walking trails, gardens, and Park Bench Cafe, as well.

A plaque commemorating 50 years of our favorite landmark should not be labeled with a political connotation. Citizens of Huntington Beach are more than "MAGA" advocates! That acronym is totally unnecessary and an inappropriate statement to make to celebrate the adoration we all share as a community for our city's library!

Give the honor of appreciating the excellent service and hospitality of our library from our 'entire' community the credit it deserves, without political labels, please!

With appreciation for community consideration,

Frances Okura  
50 year HB library attendee  
(I actually strolled the grounds when the trail was dirt and later took my children to children's hour.)  
[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Gerry de Boer](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#); [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\)](#)  
**Subject:** Plaque for Library  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:32:09 AM

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

This proposed plaque does not represent our community Library. At what point do you stop using politics as a stepping stone! This is outrageous.  
Gerry de Boer

**From:** [GLEN JACKSON](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** The Library Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:56:33 AM

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[You don't often get email from gsdsjack@aol.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Good afternoon

I would like to make known that I do not favor the current option for the Library plaque.

I would discard the eagle, the two lines about being a beacon....and the magical, alluring, galvanizing and adventurous words.

Keep the HB seal and the Library seal. Keep celebrating 50 Years serving the Huntington Beach community. And get rid of the city council membership names. This plaques is for and paid by the community of Huntington Beach. Let's try to be good caretakers of Huntington Beach finances and not overspend on this project.

Thank you

Susan Jackson

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Gloria Pekala](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Cc:** [Lisa Gibillie](#)  
**Subject:** New Library Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:31:41 AM

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You don't often get email from gpekala1949@att.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

As a taxpayer living in Huntington Beach, I DO NOT APPROVE \$7,000 for this idiotic plaque to be displayed at the HB Library.  
All names on plaque DID SUPPORT PRIORITIZATION of the library. So therefore their NAMES SHOULD NOT BE MEMORIALIZED on plaque.  
Please STOP this total waste of \$7,000 that can be allocated for much needed projects like providing aid for homeless & TRUE affordable housing for HB senior citizens!  
Gloria Pekala

**From:** [Grant Gillinger](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Plaque Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:44:15 PM

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You don't often get email from gm19gstg@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom it may concern,

The proposed plaque will cost an estimated 7,000 taxpayer dollars. Leaving aside the ugly design and blatantly partisan nature of the plaque that would be placed on a public building that members of this Council have previously moved to privatize, this plaque will certainly cost much more to the taxpayer. The divisive and laughable wording will most certainly make it a prime target for vandalism, destruction, and removal by citizens. Will you continue to dip into the public purse over and over again when this continues to happen? Will you pay for security measures to watch over your puff piece? How much of our budget will be devoted to protecting this partisan piece of metal and how much will I and the rest of my fellow citizens be expected to pay for it?

Very Respectfully,  
Grant Gillinger

**From:** [Heather Couzens](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** \*\*Subject:\*\* Concern Regarding Proposed Library Branding  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:17:24 PM

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You don't often get email from [cuzzie33@hotmail.com](mailto:cuzzie33@hotmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Library Director,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed new wording for the library's branding: \*Magical, Alluring, Galvanizing, Adventurous\*. While I appreciate the intent behind selecting words that celebrate the spirit of reading and discovery, the resulting acronym, MAGA, carries strong political connotations that could alienate members of our diverse community.

Public libraries should remain welcoming spaces for everyone, free from any association—intentional or not—with political slogans. I urge you to reconsider this choice and select language that unites rather than divides.

Thank you for your time and for all you do to support our community through the library. I hope you will take this concern into account as you move forward.

Best regards,  
Heather Couzens  
7321 CohoDrive  
Huntington Beach, CA  
92648

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Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**From:** [Irene Winkler](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Cc:** [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\)](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns Regarding Library Anniversary Plaque Expenditure  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:11:24 PM

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

Dear Members of the Huntington Beach City Council,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent approval of a \$7,000 expenditure for a commemorative plaque to mark the library's 50th anniversary. While I fully support celebrating our library's important milestone, I believe this particular implementation represents poor stewardship of taxpayer funds.

The decision to spend \$7,000 on a single plaque is difficult to justify, especially when our library could benefit from more practical investments. This sum could instead fund:

- New books and educational materials
- Programming for children and seniors
- Technology upgrades
- Building maintenance and improvements

Beyond the financial concerns, I must also address the aesthetic aspects of the chosen design. The plaque's appearance fails to reflect the dignity and significance of our library institution. Its design neither enhances the library's architectural character nor serves as an inspiring commemoration of this important milestone.

I respectfully request that the Council reconsider this expenditure and explore more cost-effective and aesthetically appropriate alternatives to celebrate our library's 50th anniversary. Perhaps a community-driven initiative could yield both a more meaningful and fiscally responsible solution.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Irene Winkler  
20901 Beachwood Lane  
Huntington Beach, CA 92646  
[irenewinkler@gmail.com](mailto:irenewinkler@gmail.com)

**From:** [Isabella Ford](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#); [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\)](#); [supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org)  
**Subject:** No MAGA plaque for the library  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:16:23 AM

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Use the money to improve Discovery Wells Park. The irrigation system needs to be revamped on the grassy field, the playground equipment is old and needs to be replaced. There are now a bunch of concrete slabs instead of picnic tables or benches. There is only one trash can for the entire field.

Isabella Ford  
714-308-0660

**From:** [Jan Madnick](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Commemorative Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:04:02 AM

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

As a 42 year resident of Huntington Beach, I am writing to register my disgust that the proposed plaque would even be considered a tribute to the 50 year anniversary of our incredible library. Rather than celebrating all of the joy the library has brought to our many generations of children (my own children & grandchildren included) you instead design a divisive and highly political statement. To say that it's ironic that a City Council that has derided and defamed librarians and the library as well as campaigning on lies about same (as well as the citizens who worked to engage the community in the petitions to protect the library as we know it) could even think they could come up with the right wording to honor the library is an understatement. Even the graphics have NOTHING to do with honoring the library. How about books and computers and people???

In fact, it looks as though someone sat with a dictionary looking for M, A, G, words. Again, even these words are incredibly ironic:

- Magical---when the MAGA movement is banning books with magic in them, like Harry Potter
- Alluring--you might want to look that up as it has a "sexual" nature to it which you have DEFINITELY wanted out of our stacks (all those nasty books on puberty)
- Galvanizing--do you even know what that means? YOU have galvanized the public against your moves
- Adventurous--not sure how that's used to describe a library

How about this for an idea (which I heard from another resident)--let the library ask patrons to come up with their own ideas for a plaque (cheaper than \$7,00)? In the thousands of people who signed the petitions to protect the library, I'll bet there's at least a few who would know appropriate and significant graphics and wording to honor 50 years.

I would suggest that even when the local news calls this another MAGA moment for Huntington Beach, as a Library Council that's supposed to represent the best interest of both the library and ALL the citizens of Huntington Beach, you might want to consider how inappropriate this plaque is.

In hopes that you will do the right thing,  
Jan Madnick

**From:** [Jan Patton](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** I do not lie the proposed plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:51:57 PM

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You don't often get email from jmpatton10188@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please do not proceed without giving other possibilities.

Thanks for your prompt attention.

Respectfully,

Jan Patton

**From:** [Jannette Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library MAGA Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:43:40 AM

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You don't often get email from srfdog3@sbcglobal.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning,

As a homeowner since 2016 and resident of Huntington Beach since 1995, I am emailing to say my discontent with the proposal of a MAGA plaque in front of the Huntington Beach Public Library. The politicalization of our city is both embarrassing and exhausting. This \$7,000 plaque continues to politicize our library and depict our city in a negative light in the media. It is time to keep politics out of our public places and stop wasting tax payer money on pet political projects of the City Council.

No on the MAGA library plaque!

Jannette Johnson

**From:** [j.c](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed library plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:16:59 AM

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[You don't often get email from jillicass@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

I strongly oppose the design of the plaque to celebrate our public library 50 years in Huntington Beach incorporating the words MAGA. The library has been an outstanding place for all people in the city and this proposal to encapsulate partisanship via words in a costly plaque is a slap in the face to all residents of this city.  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jeff Kane](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed library plaque...  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:21:37 AM

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[You don't often get email from lemnlaw@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Please be advised that I oppose the library plaque project as designed with every fiber of my being. The not so covert attempt to place the fanatical MAGA movement at the forefront of a community project is inappropriate and unacceptable. We don't need any reference to a group so focused on hatred and division being placed on a plaque that is supposed to represent all of us.

Jeff Kane  
HB resident since 1977

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jeff Poff](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:50:00 AM

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

Hello,

I feel that the proposed MAGA plaque does not represent Huntington Beach. A large portion of Huntington Beach did not vote for Trump. The city should think of a non-partisan plaque to represent our library.

Thank you,  
Jeff Poff

**From:** [Jennifer Earle](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Library 50 Year Commemorative Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:01:52 PM

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

Dear City Council-

I would like to voice my concern that the proposed 50 year commemorative plaque be revised. There should be no mention of politics, political acronyms, religion or city council members. This plaque should be reflective of the library and what it means to our city and community. It needs to be reflective of the library itself and use a quote the library actually uses to describe its purpose. In my opinion, no people should be listed on the plaque unless you list everyone that contributed to all 50 years and were actually part of the library.

I really hope this plaque is reimagined with the sole purpose of honoring the library and nothing else.

Thank you,

Jennifer Earle

**From:** [Jennifer Thomas](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#); [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\)](#)  
**Subject:** Library 50th Anniversary plaque Vote No  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:04:50 PM  
**Importance:** High

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from [jennifer@jenniferthomas.com](mailto:jennifer@jenniferthomas.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I would like to say that I am not in favor of wasting the city money for this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary plaque. The plaque looks like something from the military and not our library. The cost up to \$7,000.00 is money we could use elsewhere.

Please do not approve this plaque.

Jennifer A. Thomas  
Citizen of Huntington Beach

**From:** [Joan Gillinger](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Commemorative 50th anniversary of HBPL  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 1:00:38 PM

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

Council Members;

I spoke at one of your council meetings concerning the privatization of the Huntington Beach PUBLIC Library. MANY people spoke about the need to keep our high quality library system operating as a public library, (my image was even shown on the CBS News program that night) and you totally ignored our concerns and continued to move forward with your privatization plans.

I then joined many citizens in circulating and signing the petitions to make it necessary for a public vote before you continued your privatization efforts. The petitions had enough signatures to qualify for the requirement of a vote, and then some of your representatives started questioning the way things were handled. I responded that no misinformation was presented to people who signed the petitions, but the meanspirited questioning was offensive.

I object to this commemorative plaque having the council members listed on it because they **TOTALLY DISAPPROVE OF A PUBLIC LIBRARY** in Huntington.

My prayers continue for everyone who realizes the need to keep our library system public, and I thank the people who stand for our rights.

Sincerely,  
Joan Gillinger

**From:** [Joclyn Rabbitt-Sire](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Library Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:59:05 PM

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Good day,

Please stop all plans to mount the proposed plaque in our city's library immediately. I am embarrassed by the entire project as a 26-year resident of Huntington Beach.

Thank you,

Joclyn Rabbitt-Sire

**From:** [John Phibbs](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Cc:** [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\)](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose the proposed plaque for the library  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:44:58 PM

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

Dear sirs,

The plaque is black and ugly and is purely political advertising in support of MAGA. The Library is not the place for this plaque. It was not built by MAGA but by hard working citizens 50 years ago.

Also please do not waste \$7,000.00 on an ugly plaque. I just had a plaque made for \$100. Where are you shopping?

Regards,  
John Phibbs  
Citizen of Huntington Beach since 1965.

**From:** [Joni Saragusa](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** 50 yr Commemorative Plaque for Central Library  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:37:42 AM

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You don't often get email from jsredhead1234@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the Current Huntington Beach City Council members:

I want to express my dislike of the proposed design for the HB library in honor of its 50 years of service to our community.

First of all, MAGA is a political slogan used by ONE presidential candidate during his campaign and it is COMPLETELY INAPPROPRIATE to add it to OUR city's commemorative plaque. This is NOT about any certain viewpoint - it is honor OUR library. Furthermore, it is also COMPLETELY INAPPROPRIATE for the current city council members to be listed on this plaque. If it was up to them, they would continue banning books and privatize our library system and possibly shut down the wonderful little annexes that are vital to our community.

They have even gone so far as to send emails to petition signers trying to invalidate the petition to stop privatization of our library system. They are self seeking individuals who do not prioritize the people's voice, wants and/or rights in our fine city.

I am appalled this design is even being considered at the TAXPAYER's expense.

We have seen how some individuals that were reelected already have given over many city revenues to the Air Show settlement for generations to come.

NO MORE - I am against this design and want my voice heard!

Thank you

Sincerely,

Joni Saragusa

9726 Verde Mar Drive

Huntington Beach, CA 92646

**From:** [Judith Hutton](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:18:01 PM

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[You don't often get email from judithhutton1@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Hello,

I would like to express my concern about the library plaque design. The plaque is meant to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Public Library not a political party or the City Council members. The design should show something that has to do with reading. How about children reading & give honor to the volunteers? This is really terrible!

Regards,

Judith Hutton

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Judy Morris](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Cc:** [Danny Morris](#)  
**Subject:** HBPL commemorative 50 year MAGA plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:09:46 AM  
**Attachments:** [IMG\\_2804.png](#)

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Good morning,

Please do not approve use of the plaque attached below. It is our understanding that public libraries are supposed to be apolitical. Therefore the use of the MAGA acronym on a library plaque is not appropriate by any stretch of the imagination. Yes, there is no doubt the library is and has always been a wonderful place for children. Apparently the current city council doesn't realize that adults also can utilize and enjoy the library.

The current city council has not been supportive of the library. They have been publicly critical of well educated, highly experienced librarians' choices regarding children's' books, and one council member has gone so far as to publicly insinuate that a former council member is a pedophile for his personal parental choice to read a certain book to his own child. The city council is currently attempting to block a legal, democratic grass roots community effort to keep HBPL as it currently exists.

It is our opinion that none of the city council's names should be on a commemorative plaque. In general, we don't believe council members' names belong on a commemorative plaque unless they are paying for the plaque with their personal funds.

In the event city council is making the plaque a gift to the library, we believe the FOTL leadership should have the right to accept or refuse the gift. If the \$7,000 cost to make and install it comes from HB taxpayer funds we also believe the FOTL leadership should have the right to refuse. In our current economic environment \$7,000. from city funds for this plaque is excessive.

Finally, we also don't think the statement, "In God We Trust" belongs on a plaque to commemorate a library.

Thank you for your consideration.

Judy Morris  
Danny Morris  
31 year residents of HB  
714-393-0642

9:31



Local Urgent Action Alert!





The Community and Library Services Commission is set to approve this MAGA design to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the HB Library at their next meeting. **It is up to all of us to attend the meeting to make a Public Comment** and let the Commission know what we think of this design. Additionally, this plaque is expected to cost \$7000 to make and install!

Public Comments are at the beginning of the meeting, shortly



Delete



Reply



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More

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Judy Brusslan](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:39:22 AM

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You don't often get email from judy.brusslan@csulb.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Community and Library Services Commission,

I urge you to NOT approve the “MAGA” plaque proposed by the City Council to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the HBPL. It is clearly designed to divide people based on their political views: those that support “MAGA” are pleased, those that do not are disgusted.

A plaque should celebrate all viewpoints, which is the purpose of a public library.

Thank you,

Dr. Judy Brusslan

Huntington Beach Resident

**From:** [Judy Ceppaglia](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:53:02 AM

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[You don't often get email from [jceppaglia1@gmail.com](mailto:jceppaglia1@gmail.com). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

I am absolutely disgusted by the design of the library plaque design. It is an embarrassment to the city and the residents of the city. The MAGA must go!!! Please make my comments available to the commission and the city council.

Thank you  
Judy and Vincent Ceppaglia  
8777 Coral Springs Ct  
Huntington Beach, CA  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Julia Bica](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Comments for HBPL Plaque Design 2/11/25  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:46:21 PM

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

Hello,

I think the MAGA inclusion on the plaque is unnecessarily partisan, and doesn't represent a large portion of the HB community. I know we have a super majority city council right now, but the last election was far from a landslide. ~48.5% didn't vote for the 3 new members of city council. While we respect the results of the election, I ask city council to respect that they are elected to represent all of their constituents. Excluding half the community for something meant to celebrate all of HB is petty and unnecessary.

This is a clearly partisan political stance, no matter how cute you try to make the words. Ironically, it would be more defensible if it actually said Make America Great Again, because then at least you could argue the historical element being valuable, reflecting the current state of politics. But this feels like they KNEW they would get pushback from the public, so they are trying to get off on a technicality.

Something like this should recognize and celebrate ALL members of the community, even the (almost) half that didn't vote for MAGA representatives, especially when it is costing our tax dollars and being put on a building that our tax dollars pay for, and a lot of us fund outside of taxes through FOTL.

Libraries are and will always be naturally political spaces, which is all the more reason they should be kept neutral, inclusive, and non Partisan.

With all due respect,

Julia B

**From:** [Julia Bica](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** \*Correction\* Comments for HBPL Plaque Design 2/11/25  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:57:35 PM

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

A note on my earlier comments:

I recognize that city council may not have designed the plaque, but I ask that the Community and Library Services Commission understand the spirit of my message to be that I don't support a partisan design that excludes members of the community that fund, use, and love the library.

Thank you,

Julia B

On Tue, Feb 11, 2025, 12:46 PM Julia Bica <[juliambica@gmail.com](mailto:juliambica@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hello,

I think the MAGA inclusion on the plaque is unnecessarily partisan, and doesn't represent a large portion of the HB community. I know we have a super majority city council right now, but the last election was far from a landslide. ~48.5% didn't vote for the 3 new members of city council. While we respect the results of the election, I ask city council to respect that they are elected to represent all of their constituents. Excluding half the community for something meant to celebrate all of HB is petty and unnecessary.

This is a clearly partisan political stance, no matter how cute you try to make the words. Ironically, it would be more defensible if it actually said Make America Great Again, because then at least you could argue the historical element being valuable, reflecting the current state of politics. But this feels like they KNEW they would get pushback from the public, so they are trying to get off on a technicality.

Something like this should recognize and celebrate ALL members of the community, even the (almost) half that didn't vote for MAGA representatives, especially when it is costing our tax dollars and being put on a building that our tax dollars pay for, and a lot of us fund outside of taxes through FOTL.

Libraries are and will always be naturally political spaces, which is all the more reason they should be kept neutral, inclusive, and non Partisan.

With all due respect,

Julia B

**From:** [Julie Kollar](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to the Huntington Beach Public Library Plaque - 50th Anniversary  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:54:25 AM

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

Hello,

Please let this email serve as strong opposition to the wording on the 50th Anniversary plaque with the acronym MAGA listed, as well as the \$7,000.00 cost associated with it. A public library should serve as a neutral meeting place.

Julie Kollar

**From:** [Karen Gutierrez](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Statement for Tonight's meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:31:27 PM

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

Thank you so much for letting the HB community know about this proposal. I'm planning on attending but I'm not sure I will make it on time. If I don't make it I'd like to have this statement made.

As a member of the Huntington Beach community that was born and raised here and am now raising my own kids here, I am appalled at the insistence of this City Council in dividing our community. The library is a PUBLIC place for all of our community to feel welcome and included. The not so subtle reference to our current president's campaign motto is yet another reminder of how this City Council is not serving the entire HB community in its mission. There is zero purpose to reference any president, sitting or not, in the celebration of our library's long history that he has had no direct involvement with. Please consider this as an opportunity to listen to the rest of your community and use this as a moment to unite Huntington Beach in the celebration of our beloved library.

Good evening. My name is Karen McKinley and I've been a regular patron of the HB library system since 1969. I'd like to offer the following comments and suggestions for an appropriate commemorative plaque celebrating our beautiful Central Park Library.

By design, commemorative plaques showcase the person or entity being commemorated. They need not be wordy.

This design is scant (118 characters to be exact) on lauding the library's wonderful service to the residents, young and old, of Huntington Beach since 1975.

On the other hand, it is quite heavy on mentioning the city council, commission, and exec leadership members (360 characters 3 times the amount for the library – 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the panel) by name and position, and inappropriately shoe-horning an inflammatory partisan connection into the process. The words city council and maga are even in a larger font than the name of the library! Seriously? By the way, I do believe, it is illegal to utilize city revenue for partisan or religious purposes – you may want to check that with the city attorney and treasurer's office. Having said that ...

An appropriate plaque would commemorate 50 years of library service to the community of Huntington Beach, not elevate the council, commission or exec leadership or transitory partisan politics. Nor is it a patriotic endeavor warranting the use of our eagle and flag dominating the top third of the plaque.

Perhaps, an etching or bas-relief of the library or children reading could be the focal point, including a short narrative of the many awards our library has received over those decades? I strongly recommend reducing the listing of public "servants" to the name of their respective commissions/council. These kinds of plaques charge per character – thereby reducing the cost. And, this is really important, add Friends of the Library (or their logo) to the list – they are the ones, not the current city govt members, who have significantly sustained and enhanced the operations of the library system through monetary and volunteer contributions since 1971.

I'd like to close by asking - were the library's staunchest supporters, Friends of the Library, invited to collaboratively develop this plaque with the city?

Thank you

**From:** [Karmyn Allen](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** The Library Sign  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:16:19 AM

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You don't often get email from [killis173@gmail.com](mailto:killis173@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Morning,

My name is Karmyn Allen. I am a SSgt Medically retired from active duty in the USAF. I grew up in HB and returned after serving overseas. I bled and my friends died for this country. I love my country.

This plaque is a DISGRACE TO MY SERVICE. Last I checked I served the Democracy and the Citizens of the United States of America. Not you 7. Including Chad Williams, who SHOULD KNOW BETTER but he is not a wartime veteran nor a combat veteran. I weep for his education.

I will be arriving tonight at 6pm to discuss this topic further. I hope you all have a good explanation.

Very Respectfully,

Karmyn L. Allen  
T: (702) 703-9152

**From:** [Kathryn Goddard](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Community and library services commission  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:30:52 AM

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Regarding the idea of a 50 year celebration plaque to be installed at the library: it makes good sense to honor the fact that we have had our award-winning library for over 50 years in Huntington Beach. The plaque to be installed should celebrate the history of the library. It would be appropriate to, if any names are to be attached, honor those who actually presided over the creation of the library. The council members from that era might be named. The alternative is to present a plaque, simply celebrating the award-winning Neutra design and the mid-century modern building, which has meant so much to so many. Plaques are a touchstone to history. They should not be used to celebrate a passing moment in political history.  
Kathryn Goddard

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kathy Dowling](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Plaque for City the Library 50th Anniversary  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:39:27 AM

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You don't often get email from kathy1dowling@msn.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Our vote is NO! That is a disgusting MAGA idea and does not represent the beauty of our Library or our City. There may be 7 MAGA's on the Council but there are many Non-MAGA people in this City.

Stop the nonsense and provide a non-partisan Plaque that is respectful!

James and Katherine Dowling  
7582 Appleby Drive  
Huntington Beach 92648

**From:** [katy bellmore](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library plaque display  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:56:08 AM

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You don't often get email from [katy.bellmore07@yahoo.com](mailto:katy.bellmore07@yahoo.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

I am writing as a concerned member of the HB community regarding the recent talk of placing a MAGA plaque in our local public library. As a public institution that serves a diverse population, I believe it is important that our library maintains a neutral and welcoming environment for all patrons, regardless of political affiliation.

Public libraries have long been valued as inclusive spaces that promote learning, curiosity, and open dialogue. While I respect the right to individual expression, I am concerned that displaying politically affiliated materials could create an environment that feels exclusionary to some members of our community. I would appreciate clarity on the library's policies regarding political or ideological displays and whether guidelines exist to ensure neutrality in public spaces.

Thank you for your time.

Katy Bellmore

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Kaylin Poff](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:22:30 PM

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

I strongly oppose the proposed plaque for the HB library.

It celebrates the current city cronies instead of the long standing, 50 years, service of our great library.

And where is the city librarian's name?

Throw it in the trash where it belongs.

Listen to the citizens for once.

**From:** [Kelly ChapmanPavlik](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:31:28 AM

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

To whom it may concern,

The idea for spending \$7k on a plaque - which will forever immortalize "MAGA" - for an our beloved HB library is simply disgusting!

The city council has tried to stifle and then privatize this library for the past 3 years - in no uncertain circumstances do I want ANYTHING put up to remind me of this time. This is completely unacceptable and will be yet another national embarrassment for our city.

Kelly Chapman

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Kirsten Kirleis](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library plaque design  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:31:40 AM

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You don't often get email from [kk@mindlin.com](mailto:kk@mindlin.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom it may concern,

I am a long-time resident of Huntington Beach.

My children spent many hours at the Central Library enjoying story time and the children's book section.

I am upset with the design of the commemorative plaque for two reasons:

It should not reference God – this is a public institution and serves all people of all religions or no religion as each person is free to choose . No public plaque should single out one religion. No public funds paid by people of all religions should go towards any public statement of support for one religion.

The plaque should not directly or indirectly reference a political party or movement. This sows divisiveness in the community. People of many political parties have supported the library for the last 50 years- no one party or movement should be part of any plaque which commemorates the combined efforts of all who supported the library over the years. NO public funds should be used to directly or indirectly support a political party or movement. The political party or movement did not pay for the plaque, it is paid from taxpayer funds and so is funded by all people in the city regardless of party affiliation.

These references in the proposed plaque design show a profound lack of maturity and judgement, and complete disregard for people in the community who do not share the current city council members' views on religion and political party affiliation.

Thank you for considering my comments on this.

Kirsten Kirleis

**From:** [Kristi Love Whitacre](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:55:03 AM

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[You don't often get email from love\_kristi@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

To Whom It May Concern:

As a citizen of Huntington Beach, I am appalled that a plaque would be designed to incorporate the "MAGA" mantra into it! Very distasteful!

I'm 100% against this action!

Please note this email as my disapproval.

Thank you,

Kristi Love Whitacre

16331 Birdie Lane

Huntington Beach, CA 93649

724-651-0407

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [laura sire](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed library plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:06:03 PM

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

My name is Laura Sire, and I'm a very long-time resident and library patron of Huntington Beach. I'm also a retired educator. I'm writing today in strong opposition to the proposed commemorative library plaque. This is not only poorly designed but also uses inappropriate grammar. Alluring is a strange descriptor for a library when it is more typically used in a sexual connotation implying "naughtiness of a woman. Overall, it is an embarrassment to our city and many of its citizens.

Using the MAGA acronym is deplorable and a cheap partisan trick that is insulting and improper.

This is so unnecessary as we have a library to be proud of. Whether it be its award-winning architecture, vibrant volunteer organization FOTL (Friends of the Library), literacy programs, or professional, highly competent staff, there is much to be celebrated.

Please don't denigrate our library with partisan politics, but raise it up and incorporate its many strengths in the commemoration it deserves.

Laura Sire  
60+ year resident of HB

**From:** [Lisa Swanson](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** 50th Anniversary  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:54:14 AM

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

Dear Commissioners, I am a frequent library patron and Friend of the Huntington Beach Library. I'm excited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our award winning Central library, but I want to express my dismay at the proposed MAGA themed plaque. Gracey and the current council have waged war on our beloved library and committed librarians and we should not be wasting city money honoring them on this important anniversary.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Lisa Swanson

15 yr HB resident

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Lori Brunner](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Library plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:28:03 PM

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[You don't often get email from loribrunner@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Library Commission,

I saw a draft of the proposed plaque celebrating the 50th year anniversary of our wonderful Huntington Beach library. I feel the plaque is too political and does not represent a large part of the population of our great city. This is no place to “stick it to them” with a dark, gaudy, MAGA plaque blatantly celebrating the recent council and its supporters. I am not happy with this draft and would like the plaque to represent the entire city and celebrate the library and its contributions to Huntington Beach.

Thank you,  
Lori Brunner

**From:** [lori shepler](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:21:35 PM

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

Hi Charlene,

I've been a resident of Huntington Beach for over 35 years and am appalled that the city council and mayor want to put up a plaque that has the divisive MAGA acronym on it.

The residents of Huntington Beach should be able to vote on this issue and it should be about a plaque that just commemorates our library's 50 years of amazing service to the public.

The plaque shouldn't have the names of the city council members or mayor on it either.

I hope the committee does the right thing tonight and votes no on this unacceptable plaque for our award winning and amazing public library.

Lori Shepler

Mom to twins, 3 Time Team Pulitzer Prize Winning Photojournalist, Author of 2 books, Animal advocate, and Environmental advocate.

“We are always going to put the best interests of kids above the rights, privileges and priorities of adults.” -- Michelle Rhee

"Lori Shepler. After this Huntington Beach mom discovered her kids attend school near the No. 2 lead-polluting airport in the nation, Shepler started a campaign to ban leaded fuel from Long Beach Airport. A couple months later, the city approved developing a plan to hasten the airport's transition to unleaded fuel." [125 Most Influential People for 2022](#)

[http://A California Mom May Tip the Fuel Battle Scales](#)

[Lead spews from some Southern California airports. "I am in Erin Brockovich mode now." Lori Shepler](#)

[San Francisco Chronicle/Lori Shepler](#)

[Spectrum News/Lori Shepler](#)

[Lori Shepler Instagram](#)

**From:** [Lucinda Mroch](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Commemorative Library Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:16:08 AM

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

Dear Community and Library Service Commission,

Please do not approve the current plaque proposal commemorating the 50th anniversary of the HBPL.

Please advise the public who designed this plaque. In reviewing previous minutes, I am unable to see any item mentioning a commemorative plaque.

The plaque is partisan and juvenile and will only serve to remind HB residents of a dark time in our City's history when partisan politics were the norm.

Instead, please include the community in the drafting of a new proposal. This will engage instead or enrage our community.

Thank you,  
Lucinda Mroch

**From:** [MARILYN Boehm](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Cc:** [supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org)  
**Subject:** HB library plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:54:02 PM

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No, No, NO!!! Take your MAGA beliefs elsewhere. You have done NOTHING positive for our libraries, and now you want to DEFACE them for \$7K with your rotten beliefs. You represent the entire city of HB, not Donald Trump and his hateful racism.

This is a totally inappropriate plaque.

I'd show up to the CC meeting tonight and say so, but I'm sick with the flu. What goes around comes around. None of you will be re-elected to office.

Marilyn Boehm, HB

**From:** [Marilyn Konowal](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library Anniversary plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:50:20 AM

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

This email is a request to not approve the proposed plaque for the 50th anniversary of the Huntington Beach Library. First of all, the cost of \$7000 to create this plaque is ridiculous especially when our city is facing a serious budget crisis. Secondly, and most importantly, the plaque has been turned into a political statement with its blatant **MAGA** spelling of words to describe our library. Our HB Library has never been political and should remain so. A better alternative is needed.

Marilyn Konowal  
50 year resident and home owner of Huntington Beach

**From:** [jodykyle1@aol.com](mailto:jodykyle1@aol.com)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Cc:** [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\)](#)  
**Subject:** Library Commemorative Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:37:26 PM

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You don't often get email from [jodykyle1@aol.com](mailto:jodykyle1@aol.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Ms. Gomez,

I am writing to express my disapproval and outright disgust at the proposed library plaque commemorating it's 50th anniversary.

- The not so subtle inclusion of the MAGA acronym is divisive and distasteful.
- The \$7,000 price tag far exceeds the cost of previous commemorative plaques and should be hard for the city council to justify considering the devastating budget shortfall the city is facing.
- Lastly, it is the height of hubris and deceit for this city council to pretend to commemorate our public library when they have spent years vilifying the people who work there. Not once has this city council attempted to stop the smears and attacks on the library and instead have encouraged their MAGA base to call librarians pedophiles and groomers.

A commemorative library plaque should serve to honor the dedication and service of the people who work there and not as a vanity project for the MAGA city council.

Mary Kyle  
Huntington Beach, CA

**From:** [Mary T](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Another thought for plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:31:56 AM

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Instead of the blatant MAGA slogan, how about:

HUNTINGTON BEACH LIBRARY  
ENRICHING MINDS ONE PAGE AT A TIME

**From:** [Melanie Tioleco-Cheng](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** No MAGA sign in our library  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:38:29 PM

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

Hello City Council,

I'm sure common sense already should be that the 50th year HB library commemorative plaque should not show any party affiliation. But we are not in an age of common sense.

There should not be a MAGA declaration on an amazing library institution that has been here for 50 years and has nothing to do with MAGA. **I find it ironic that the very people who stand for book bans and the dismantling of our great library, are proclaiming MAGA for it.**

Please stop. The acronym doesn't even fit. If the current city council members wish to wear MAGA merch, so be it. Don't force it on our beloved library. They have already made HB a laughingstock of the country.

NO MAGA on the plaque, please.

Also, I really hope that it isn't true that this plaque costs \$7000. HB shouldn't be paying an outrageous price, esp as we are in a deficit due to frivolous lawsuits and backhanded payouts by Michael Gates.

Sincerely,  
Melanie Tioleco-Cheng  
HB resident and HBPL patron for over 20 years

**From:** [Meryl Schrantz](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library Sign  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:21:33 PM

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

As a resident of Huntington Beach, I am strongly opposed to suggested MAGA to celebrate our library. The cost is outrageous and the sign is NOT appropriate

Meryl Schrantz

**From:** [Michelle Zernick](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to the Proposed Library Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:17:50 PM

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

Dear City Council,

I am writing to express my strong disapproval of the proposed plaque for the Huntington Beach Public Library. This plaque is not a celebration of the library, nor does it honor its mission, staff, or the essential role it plays in our community. Instead, it misuses \$7,000 of city funds—taxpayer money that should be invested in library resources, programs, and improvements rather than political messaging that does not reflect the values of our city.

Beyond the financial waste, this plaque is a blatant attempt to push a political agenda that does not align with the beliefs of many Huntington Beach residents. It is particularly troubling that it includes references to MAGA, a movement tied to an administration that has repeatedly cut funding to education, libraries, and other critical public resources. You cannot claim to support our library while simultaneously celebrating a political ideology that actively seeks to defund and diminish it. The contradiction is glaring.

Furthermore, the world being shaped by the current administration, which this plaque endorses, is not one in which children feel safe. Recent policies have left many children afraid to express themselves or seek support. As an elementary school teacher and lifelong patron of HBPL, I am both disappointed and ashamed that the city council is attempting to pass off their personal political beliefs as a tribute to our library. Instead of fostering a welcoming and inclusive space, this plaque would turn the library into a place of division, discomfort, and inaccessibility.

The plaque also falsely celebrates a city council that did little to prevent the library's potential privatization. You cannot claim to honor something you were unwilling to fight for. The hardworking library staff, who have dedicated themselves to keeping this institution a safe and valuable resource, deserve real support—not performative gestures meant to serve a political narrative.

If members of the council wish to create a plaque in honor of Donald Trump or MAGA, they can do so with private funds in a location that is not a public institution meant to serve all residents. Using city money and the library as a front for this agenda is not only irresponsible, but deeply disrespectful to the mission of the library and those who rely on it.

I urge you to reconsider this decision and redirect these funds toward meaningful improvements for our library and community.

Your fellow HB citizen,

Michelle Zernick

--

**Michelle Zernick, B.A.**

She/Her/Hers

University of California, Irvine

Department of Psychological Science

[LEAPS Team](#)

[LinkedIn Profile](#)

**From:** [Mike Stratton](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** HB Resident comment on the proposed Library plaque.  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:13:12 PM

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[You don't often get email from [theotherwhitemike@mac.com](mailto:theotherwhitemike@mac.com). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Hi,

As a Huntington Beach voter and resident, I'd like to provide my comments against the proposed plaque to be installed in the Central Library, and would like these comments to be noted to the committee.

The design, as proposed, is not only political but divisive. Regardless of what side of the political spectrum you're on, the attempt to thinly veil "MAGA" in the plaque will only draw undue attention and prospective vandalism, which will cost HB taxpayers even more money in the future. A library should be celebrated in a non-partisan fashion, bearing only the symbols of our country, state, county and city, as well as symbols of the library system itself- not half-baked attempts to hide political messages.

To top that off, the words used for the acronym are awful and don't even apply to the celebration of a library! What about a library is "alluring" or "galvanizing"? It's clear what the intent was here- to invent a backronym to insert political jargon into a public space.

From a design perspective, removing the center section would allow the remainder of the plaque to actually be centered and lined up. As is, the "Executive Leadership" section isn't even in line with the bottom row of this plaque.

\$7k for a plaque with a political message seems like a waste of public money, given the millions of taxpayer dollars wasted on the air show lawsuit, and made even worse with this not terribly well hidden political message.

Thank you for your time,

Mike Stratton  
Huntington Beach resident.

**From:** [Molly Desmond](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:53:27 PM

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

I am in complete opposition to the placing of this plaque in the library. I am a supporter of the city council and even I view this plaque as an embarrassment. Weaving in the acronym MAGA is purposely divisive, not to mention petty and juvenile. No one has ever described a library as "alluring." The focus should be on the LIBRARY and it's 50 years, enduring through councils of all political persuasions. And if you spend 7 THOUSAND DOLLARS

**From:** [Murray Schrantz](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Cc:** [Meryl Schrantz](#)  
**Subject:** HB Library Proposed "MAGA" Sign  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:04:30 PM

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You don't often get email from [jmurrayschrantz@gmail.com](mailto:jmurrayschrantz@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

The proposed MAGA sign for the HB library is a travesty of common sense and clearly violates the goal of honoring that hallowed institution and its foundational principles!

The cost, while concerning, is incidental when compared to the overtly politically biased message, not cleverly subdued by a senseless acronym. I think ANY politically-themed signage would be inappropriate and this monstrosity imbecilic contrivance would be better suited to Vladimir Putin's regime.

Huntington Beach residents, and those who frequent the library (not likely those who created that repugnant image), deserve something far better!

--

J. Murray Schrantz  
[jmurrayschrantz@gmail.com](mailto:jmurrayschrantz@gmail.com)

**From:** [Nancy C.](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** "MAGA" plaque for the library  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:42:14 AM

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You don't often get email from ncc926@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Charlene,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the 'MAGA' plaque for the library. As an HB resident, this is *not* something I support, as it imposes a political identity onto a public space meant for everyone. Public institutions like the library should remain nonpartisan, ensuring all residents feel welcome.

Attempting to redefine 'MAGA' with words like *Magical, Alluring, Galvanizing, Adventurous* does not change its widely recognized political association. It feels forced and unconvincing, rather than a genuine reflection of creativity or inclusivity.

The library serves the entire Huntington Beach community, including individuals with diverse perspectives. A politically charged term like 'MAGA' does not represent all residents. I urge reconsideration of this decision to maintain the library as a truly neutral and inclusive space.

Thank you for your attention and support.

Warmest regards,  
Nancy Carter  
HB Resident

**From:** [Natalie Moser](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Cc:** [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\)](#); [Natalie Moser](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Politicized Library Plaque – Preserve HB Public Library's Integrity  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:57:56 PM

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from nataliemoser76@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor, Council Members, and Community and Library Services Commissioners,

I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to the proposed plaque at the Huntington Beach Public Library. While it is both welcome and appropriate to commemorate the library's **50 years of service**, the **political messaging embedded in this proposal is unacceptable**.

The use of **MAGA as an acrostic—Magical, Alluring, Galvanizing, Adventurous—is not accidental**. It is an intentional attempt to insert **partisan ideology** into a public space that should remain **neutral, inclusive, and welcoming to all**. Libraries are not places for political branding, whether explicit or subtle.

**But here's the truth: The Huntington Beach Public Library does not belong to any one movement or ideology—it belongs to the people**. It was not just designed by renowned architect **Dion Neutra**, known for his **modernist, minimalist aesthetic**, but it was also **built by the librarians, educators, readers, and community members who shaped it into the institution it is today**.

Neutra's design reflects a **philosophy of simplicity, balance, and human-centered spaces**, intended to blend seamlessly with nature and inspire thought and connection. **The proposed plaque, however, stands in stark contrast to that vision**. Its design is clumsy, overly busy, and aesthetically incompatible with the building's clean, modern lines. **It diminishes the architectural integrity of the space rather than enhancing it**.

For five decades, this library has served as a **sanctuary for learning, connection, and free expression—a place where people come to read, study, gather, and grow**. The **true legacy** of this library and cultural center is not political—it is **educational, cultural, and civic**. It exists because generations of Huntington Beach residents have **walked through its doors, learned from its collections, and shared ideas within its walls**.

This plaque is not an isolated incident. It follows other efforts to **politicize our public library**, including the creation of the **Parent/Guardian Public Library Book Review Committee—a thinly veiled censorship board—and attempts to outsource library operations**. It is part of a larger, troubling trend of eroding the public's control over public spaces.

**History warns us against such actions.** Throughout authoritarian regimes, **plaques and monuments were not placed to celebrate institutions, but to control them.** In **Nazi Germany and the Jim Crow South**, public spaces were marked with **ideological symbols designed to divide, exclude, and control.**

After World War II, **most of these propaganda markers were removed—recognized for what they truly were.** Today, they are studied in history books as **reminders of what happens when public institutions are used as tools of political influence rather than places of and for community.**

The **Huntington Beach Public Library’s 50th anniversary deserves to be honored—but not with a plaque that distorts its true purpose.** Instead, I urge the Commission and the City Council to approve a **neutral, community-focused plaque** that truly represents the values of **education, access, and civic engagement.** I have included suggested alternative wording for consideration.

I strongly urge you to **reject this proposal and stand for the integrity of our public spaces.** The library was **built for the people—by the people who use it—not for a political slogan.**

Public institutions must remain spaces for **learning and connection—not political tools.** Let us honor the library’s **true legacy—not distort it.**

Sincerely,  
Natalie Moser  
Former Huntington Beach City Councilmember  
Bachelor of Arts, U.S. and Modern European History, CSULB

—

### **Suggested Neutral Plaque Wording:**

To truly honor the history, architecture, and purpose of the Huntington Beach Public Library, I propose the following alternative plaque options:

#### **Option 1: Architectural & Community Legacy**

Huntington Beach Public Library  
Celebrating 50 Years of Knowledge, Community, and Architectural Excellence

Designed by Dion Neutra, this library stands as a landmark of mid-century modern design, blending nature, light, and space to foster learning and connection. For five decades, it has been a center of education, civic engagement, and cultural growth, ensuring access to knowledge for all.

"The true value of a library is not in the books it holds, but in the minds it opens."

Established 1975 | Commemorated 2025

**Option 2: Honoring the Library’s Mission**

Huntington Beach Public Library

A Sanctuary for Learning & Discovery Since 1975

For 50 years, this library has served as a pillar of free access to knowledge, a gathering space for the community, and a beacon for those seeking to learn, explore, and grow.

Built with the vision of inclusion and lifelong education, this library remains dedicated to ensuring freedom of information and intellectual curiosity for future generations.

"Dedicated to the people of Huntington Beach, past, present, and future."

Established 1975 | Commemorated 2025

**Option 3: Celebrating Civic Engagement & Intellectual Freedom**

Huntington Beach Public Library

A Community Hub for Knowledge, Culture, and Civic Engagement

Since its founding in 1975, the Huntington Beach Public Library has been a place of learning, discourse, and discovery—open to all who seek knowledge and connection.

We honor the generations who have read, learned, and gathered within these walls, and reaffirm our commitment to intellectual freedom, inclusion, and public access.

"A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life." — Henry Ward Beecher

Established 1975 | Commemorated 2025

Kind regards,

Natalie



Photo



**Natalie Moser**

[714-293-6981](tel:714-293-6981)

[nataliemoser76@gmail.com](mailto:nataliemoser76@gmail.com)



**From:** [Nicole Atilano](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Comment for 2/11/25 meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:49:27 AM

---

You don't often get email from nicole476@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear HB Community Library and Services Commission,

In what way does a MAGA plaque commemorate the library's 50th anniversary? And how could such a plaque cost \$7000? It seems like that doesn't do anything to celebrate or encourage reading.

If gay/queer visibility at the library is considered "divisive," how exactly is that not also the case for MAGA visibility? This is a double standard. If you're going to allow that plaque, an LGBTQ+ flag or other symbol must also be allowed.

Thank you,  
Nicole Atilano  
A concerned citizen

**From:** [Our Gmail](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Alluring library?  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:40:57 AM

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You don't often get email from livinglarger.60s@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Change Alluring to “Apolitical.”

The irony of that on a MAGA sign would be FUNNY!

It's pretty nauseating the way the CC children behave with our tax dollars.  
Stop the nonsense, please.

**From:** [njmannion@verizon.net](mailto:njmannion@verizon.net)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** NO on proposed library plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:58:26 AM

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You don't often get email from [njmannion@verizon.net](mailto:njmannion@verizon.net). [Learn why this is important](#)

The 3 voting members in my household are vehemently opposed to placing the proposed commemorative plaque in our library or anyplace else. Do not spend our taxpaying revenues on a self-serving plaque that has no meaning except to the current council members since their names will be on it. When will this group do something meaningful for our city instead of trying to divide us with political stunts?

**From:** [Pam B](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** 50 Year Commemorative Plaque for Library  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:51:28 PM

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You don't often get email from hbmermaid@earthlink.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

- The design is hideous. It looks like it belongs in a mausoleum.
- The cost is outrageous. Which political donor will be gouging us for this?
- Including a political slogan (MAGA) is beyond the pale. The Library is for everybody.

For the reasons above, plus many more, I oppose our elected officials spending my tax dollars in this way. Do better!

--

~Pam

"Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect." --Mark Twain

**From:** [p.g](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:49:19 PM

---

You don't often get email from paq0424@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please do not move forward with a 7000 dollar plaque. The expense is unwarranted.

Thank you

Pat Quintana

**From:** [Pat Thiessen](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Cc:** [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\)](#)  
**Subject:** Library Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:42:09 PM

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from patthiessen01@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,  
I think making a political statement (MAGA) on the library's anniversary is a horrible thing to do. The library is for everyone.  
Pat Thiessen  
92648

**From:** [Patti Beumer Wride](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:40:22 AM

---

You don't often get email from trish721@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Ms. Gomez,

Since I am unable to attend tonight's meeting, I am writing to express my disapproval of the proposed plaque commemorating the 50th anniversary of our wonderful public library.

The City Council by design is meant to be non-partisan, yet their agenda takes center stage with the logo that has been designed.

Though it may be intended to be subliminal, it is obvious upon first sight and is offensive to anyone that doesn't share their agenda, or even any citizen that feels we should keep Huntington Beach, and especially the library, as a welcomed space for all.

I urge this design to be required to be amended or to deny its approval.

Thank you,  
Patricia Wride  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

**From:** [Paul Struve](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition of library plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:05:06 PM

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[You don't often get email from pstruve@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Hello,

My name is Paul Struve and I am a Huntington Beach resident. I am in steep opposition of the proposed plaque. "Magical Alluring Galvanizing Adventurous" is not a saying associated with the HB library, or anything for that matter. A quick internet search shows that the only things associated with that combination of words are news articles about this plaque, or companies that specialize in galvanizing metals. This is a political ploy by the conservative city counsel to instill the MAGA acronym on a permanent plaque in the city. Stop creating controversy for no reason! This is for a library! Why don't we select an actual quote that has to do with books. It took me 30 seconds to find these wonderful examples:

"We read to know we are not alone" -CS Lewis

"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader" -Margaret Fuller

"Some books leave us free and some books make us free" -Ralph Waldo Emerson

Lastly, why are we recognizing the city counsel on the plaque? What have they done to improve the library, or make it a place for the people? I would rather the names of the librarians be immortalized on the plaque as they are the people who are really responsible for making the library the magical place that is! I learned long ago that a true leader should not be recognized (or take credit for) the work of others.

I implore the Community and Library Services Commission to block the progress of this plaque. If nothing else, please go and talk to the rest of us that actually use the library or work at the library (the true stakeholders) about what they think, and not just take the direction of a city counsel that only want to further their own political agenda.

Regards,  
Paul Struve

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Priya Sanghvi](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** NO ON THE PLAQUE  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:01:05 AM

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[You don't often get email from priyasanghvi@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

I vote against the MAGA plaque!!

It's an atrocity that this would even be considered. Please consider the rights and feelings of all of the residents of HB and not just those that are maga.

I have been a resident of HB for 45 years. I love this city. Please respect my opinion and those who share my sentiment. We can find a non-partisan way to celebrate this amazing city.

Thank you

**From:** [Regina Mastroyannis Blankenhorn](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Cc:** [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\)](#)  
**Subject:** Celebratory 50th Year Library Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:30:21 AM

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

Who are you kidding with that plaque? MAGA, really?

Why don't you give equal status to the other side and add a DEMS acronym, why don't you?

Or how about we just make an elegant plaque that celebrates the library? What a novel idea!

I am not going to go into the weeds of how ludicrous this plaque is. You are all very aware.

Take the high road and make a plaque that can be respected and celebrated by all now and 50 years from now.

Respectfully,  
Regina M. Blankenhorn

**From:** [Roesner, Michelle](#) on behalf of [Central Library General Inquiries](#)  
**To:** [Wysocki, Ashley](#); [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Concern re proposed library branding  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:03:24 AM

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**From:** Roberta McKernan <rlmckern@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:57 AM  
**To:** Central Library General Inquiries <library@hbpl.org>; Wysocki, Ashley <ashley.wysocki@surfcity-hb.org>  
**Subject:** Concern re proposed library branding

You don't often get email from [rlmckern@gmail.com](mailto:rlmckern@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Ms Wysocki,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed new wording for the library's branding: \*Magical, Alluring, Galvanizing, Adventurous\*. While I appreciate the intent behind selecting words that celebrate the spirit of reading and discovery, the resulting acronym, MAGA, carries strong political connotations that could alienate members of our diverse community.

Public libraries should remain welcoming spaces for everyone, free from any association—intentional or not—with political slogans. I urge you to reconsider this choice and select language that unites rather than divides.

Thank you for your time and for all you do to support our community through the library. I hope you will take this concern into account as you move forward.

Best regards,  
Roberta McKernan  
7401 Seabluff Dr., Unit 109  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

**From:** [Samira Wilt](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** MAGA PLAQUE  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:03:01 PM

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[You don't often get email from samirawilt@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

I would like to be on the ballot to be against this MAGA PLAQUE. It's very poor taste to do something like this!  
Samira Wilt

**From:** [Scott Malabarba](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** item 25-094 on Community and Library Services Commission agenda 2/11 - oppose  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:03:22 PM

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[You don't often get email from [scott@malabarba.org](mailto:scott@malabarba.org). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Dear Community and Library Services Commission,

Once again I am grateful to those who monitor and bring to our attention the nonsense that our current city council engages in.

In this case we look into a seemingly innocuous agenda item and find... A commemorative plaque design that transparently uses random adjectives to spell out "MAGA".

I don't know of a nicer way to express this -- it's a juvenile, immature stunt. Elected representatives who are serious about their jobs do not behave in this way. The plaque is an embarrassment to the city and will continue to be so until a more professional city council consigns it to the trash heap of better-forgotten history.

"MAGA" ideologues pretending to celebrate the public library is also deeply hypocritical. Project 2025 is already busy destroying the federal department of education and removing every barrier to the growing wave of book bans ("Everyone Poops"? Really?). Closer to home, the stream of young HB residents who bravely appealed to the city council in June of 2023 to not stigmatize and "make unavailable" books that, in the words of one, are "suicide prevention," are certainly not going to feel "safe, valued, and free to grow" when walking under "MAGA" every time they go to the library.

Perhaps some of the new commission will have enough common sense and integrity to skip this design and replace it with one that is tasteful, professional, and does not promote any political ideology. We can only hope.

Sincerely,

Scott Malabarba

HB resident

**From:** [Seth Armstrong](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** maga plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:28:08 AM

---

[You don't often get email from sethremy@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

I absolutely oppose this plaque this is a library. we should not be promoting politics at a library where kids come to learn

Seth Armstrong

**From:** [Sharon](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:21:11 AM

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[You don't often get email from sharon.m.daniels@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Please do not turn a plaque commemorating 50 years of the Central Library and its contributions to the HB community as a political statement. It is a huge waste of taxpayer funds.

Sincerely yours,  
Sharon Daniels  
HB resident

**From:** [srhayashi@aim.com](mailto:srhayashi@aim.com)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** LIBRARY PLAQUE  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:02:07 AM

---

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

Hi Charlene,

Please do not use our library funds for a MAGA plaque on our beloved library. It's a waste of funds that are put aside to maintain our library. Use the money wisely to maintain it's integrity.

Thank you

SHELLEY HAYASHI  
18878 COOLWATER LN  
HUNTINGTON BEACH CA 92648

SRHAYASH@AIM.COM

**From:** [Stephanie Taylor](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:48:41 AM

---

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

I strongly oppose the proposed plaque for the HB library.

It celebrates the current city cronies instead of the long standing, 50 years, service of our great library.

And where is the city librarian's name?

Throw it in the trash where it belongs.

Listen to the citizens for once.

Stephanie Taylor  
8933 Yolo Cir 1308B  
Huntington Beach

**From:** [Stephen MacDowell](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Redesign the 50th anniversary plaqu  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:55:50 AM

---

You don't often get email from toyomo@sbcglobal.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Community and Library Services Commission,

I would like to express deep concern over the 50th Anniversary Plaque for the HB Central Library. The plaque should celebrate the library and our HB community. I think aesthetically the library and symbols of the city should be foregrounded on the plaque. The old timey eagles and Federal motto "In God We Trust" seem incongruous. I'm sure everyone loves eagles and trusts in God but we are talking about celebrating our unique local library on its 50th anniversary.

A greater concern, however, is the insertion of the initials MAGA prominently displayed on the plaque. This has nothing to do with celebrating our library's 50 years. Moreover, this insertion does the exact opposite of celebrating our community as a whole. it is a divisive symbol for a large percentage of HB residents. For many residents, it would have the feel of a gang tagging a public space with their placas... a beloved space defiled.

Imagine if a previous city council had prominently inserted the letters BLM (Brilliant, Luminous, Magnificent) prominently on a city plaque. There would have been a segment of a community that would have been highly disturbed. it would not have celebrated our community but divided it.

Please redesign the plaque so that all Huntington Beach residents will be proud to read when they enter the library.

Sincerely,

Stephen MacDowell  
5601 Middlecoff  
Huntington Beach, Ca

**From:** [Steve Barron](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Feedback on Proposed Design HB Library 50th anniversary plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:53:35 PM

---

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

Hello,

I am writing to give feedback on this design. In short I think this design should be voted down and any design moving forward needs to be developed and created by the community of HB and perhaps decided and voted on by patrons of the library. Not by blatantly petty and partisan individuals of our city council.

I'd encourage our city council to work closely with the library staff, patrons and friends of the library to come up with a new bi-partisan design.

In my opinion this is a waste of \$7000 and should not come from the maintenance fund. If the city council members wish to use this clearly right wing political design then the funds should come from their own pockets or gather their own donations to pay for this design and the placement of it.

If this in fact passes, then I propose we place this next to the primary refuse bins or where maintenance storage is since these funds are coming directly from them.

Thank you,

SB

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Suzy Gokel](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** No Go for library plaque 50th anniversaryMAGA sign  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:19:44 AM

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[You don't often get email from ssgokel@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Dear HB friends,

Please do not put such a political sign on our public library. A public library is used by all- not just those who support the MAGA movement and should be reflected accordingly. We should not unduly influence our children who use the library in one direction or another for politics at such a young age. The use of a possibly divisive acronym in an official capacity on a government building, which should reflect all citizens of a community and not just one group. Additionally, the expense of such a plaque appears unnecessary in these financially unpredictable times.

Thank you for hearing us.  
Suzanne Gokel

**From:** [Cynthia Forsthoff](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** library plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:42:01 AM

---

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

Dear Ms. Gomez,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed plaque honoring the 50th anniversary of the library. I am a resident of Huntington Beach since 1989. I believe our library is a "jewel of the city" and should be recognized for its contribution to our city. This plaque as conceived is highly partisan. It is an homage to MAGA politics and as such is highly divisive. The logo is laughably bad. I don't know who designed the plaque. Was there any input from the library staff, FOTL or citizens of HB? The library has been and should remain welcoming to everyone. We should honor that tradition.

I urge you to reject this plaque design.

Sincerely,

Cindy Forsthoff  
HB resident

**From:** [Ta Ord](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:51:53 AM

---

You don't often get email from taord21@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please stop this plaque. Why so many names on it? They were just appointed and some two years. Remove Maga and names off this thing. What if someone moves do we have to redo? This is not political plaque. STOP.

**From:** [Tallene Eiler](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** MAGA Library Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:11:13 PM

---

[You don't often get email from tallene@eiler.us. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Hi,

I just saw the “MAGA” library plaque. I find it to be inappropriate to put such a partisan plaque on a library that serves all members of the Huntington Beach community. I am very against it.

Tallene Eiler

**From:** [Tamantha Bowman](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: NO TO MAGA PLAQUE  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:16:47 PM

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You don't often get email from [tamanthajbowman@gmail.com](mailto:tamanthajbowman@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

There is nothing Magical, Alluring, Galvanizing or Adventurous about having a MAGA plaque in our city library. Stop with your partisan politics, don't waste \$7,000 on a ridiculous plaque. As a citizen and taxpayer this is an outrageous proposal.

Be Best,  
Tamantha Bowman  
USCG Retired CWO3

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

**From:** **Tamantha Bowman** <[tamanthajbowman@gmail.com](mailto:tamanthajbowman@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 11, 2025 at 12:06 PM  
**Subject:** NO TO MAGA PLAQUE  
**To:** <[city.council@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:city.council@surfcity-hb.org)>

There is nothing Magical, Alluring, Galvanizing or Adventurous about having a MAGA plaque in our city library. Stop with your partisan politics, don't waste \$7,000 on a ridiculous plaque. As a citizen and taxpayer this is an outrageous proposal.

Be Best,  
Tamantha Bowman  
USCG Retired CWO3

--

Best,  
Tamantha\*

**From:** [Tess Parducho](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Library Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:10:21 PM

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[You don't often get email from tparducho@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Hi there,

I am appalled by the design of the commemorative plaque for the Central Library. It is abhorrent and promotes religion, MAGA, and the one-sided city council. The content and design is extremely tacky and would be an embarrassment if it were to be approved.

I am voting against this design. Please let the community decide on such an important dedication.

Thank you,  
Tess Parducho

**From:** [tien mai](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 10:08:31 AM

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[You don't often get email from maithuytien07@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

I oppose the maga plaque.

**From:** [Tobias Franz](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** RE: File #25-094 - Written Statement from Citizen  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:50:20 PM

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

To whom it may concern,

My name is Tobias Franz and I am a resident of Huntington Beach. With regards to File #25-094 on today's City Council agenda (Titled: Approval of Plaque Design and Language for the Huntington Beach Public Library 50th Anniversary). I respectfully advocate that political acronyms and messaging not be placed on the Library's 50th Anniversary Plaque.

Libraries, Huntington Beach's in particular, are wonderful places that are meant to be free of partisanship. They only serve to provide free access to information and foster education. Intentionally choosing irrelevant words to make an acronym that is identical to a large, polarizing political movement (MAGA) is a disservice to the library, and will reflect poorly on our city within due time.

Imagine if someone included "Yes We Can" on a library plaque back during the Obama presidency. It would be distasteful and disrespectful then, and it will be distasteful and disrespectful now.

Please remove all political messaging from the 50th Anniversary Library plaque.

Thank you,  
Tobias Franz

**From:** [Tommy Feck](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** HB Public Library 50th Anniversary  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:58:09 AM

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Is this a joke to our current city hall? Since when did we want politicians to play stupid political games with public resources? We the people want you to do your jobs: keep the lights on and things running in the city, pay the bills, and stop acting like a bunch of spoiled toddlers with wrinkled skin.

Keep MAGA bullshit and Dem nonsense out of our city.

Thank you.

**From:** [Travis Martindill](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** Regarding the Library 50th Anniversary Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:31:26 AM

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You don't often get email from [nerdistheword214@gmail.com](mailto:nerdistheword214@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

To the City Council:

I object strongly to the proposed plaque to be commissioned for the HB Library's 50th anniversary. The design put forth is extremely inappropriate and not indicative of all to what the Library represents and has represented for the last 50 years.

A public library is a place for people to gather, to come together to learn and communicate and thrive. The proposed plaque only serves to bring partisan political rhetoric into an establishment that should have none, and will only promote division among the people who enjoy visiting the library.

The words chosen for the plaque were very obviously done so in order to shoehorn the MAGA acronym, which is a blatant dog whistle to a particular group of people, and is not inviting to everyone who visits. The MAGA motto will surely be a forgotten, embarrassing footnote in American history before long, and having it engraved forever on this plaque is equally embarrassing. In addition, the words themselves are not appropriate to describe a library. If an establishment considered itself "alluring," I would expect it more to be a strip club rather than a center for learning and imagination.

I implore you, as do many others who live in this wonderful city, to get rid of this plaque design and come up with something better. A 50th anniversary plaque should celebrate what the library truly stands for and what people come to visit it for, not shove a ridiculous political ideology down the throats of those who read it. Be better.

-Travis Martindill

**From:** [Veronica Beaver](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Subject:** MAGA Plaque at Central Library  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:56:26 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I, a Huntington Beach resident and active patron of the Huntington Beach Public Library system, have seen sources such as KTLA and Yahoo News report that the city of Huntington Beach is planning a "MAGA" plaque for the 50th anniversary of the Central Library. I implore the city council to reconsider. The public library is one of the most valuable places in our city and does not need to be marred by partisan politics. The library must remain a place at which ALL people, no matter their political affiliation, can feel comfortable and welcome. This plaque will send a clear message to those of us who do support the current administration that we are not welcome at the Huntington Beach library.

At the Huntington Beach Library:

- My children have learned to read.
- My children have discovered their favorite literary characters. (Dog Man!)
- My garden has benefited from the Seed Library.
- I have fallen in love with reading again, which would not be possible if I had to purchase every book I read. (average of 40 a year)
- My family has had the pleasure of 4 generations making crafts together at the Main Street Branch.
- My children have been helped with their homework at the Oak View branch (which has saved my sanity on many occasions).
- My, then, toddler and I looked forward to weekly story time.
- My son's eyes became as big as pancakes at the Maker's Space.
- My daughter and I enjoyed a Fancy Nancy Themed tea.
- ...and so much more.

As you can see, the public library is a major part of mine and my family's life. Please do not break my heart by making this proposed plaque a reality.

**Veronica Beaver**

Projects & Partnerships Director

**Website:** [KarlVaters.com](#)

**Podcast:** [The Church Lobby: Conversations on Faith & Ministry](#)

**From:** [Viviana Maleta](#)  
**To:** [Gomez, Charlene](#)  
**Cc:** [CITY COUNCIL \(INCL. CMO STAFF\)](#)  
**Subject:** Library Plaque  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:59:20 AM

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[Some people who received this message don't often get email from vivmord@msn.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Good Morning

I am writing this email to express my strong dissent to the proposed plaque for the anniversary of the Huntington Beach Public Library. I think it is disgusting and completely self serving for the city council to have their names under words intentionally chosen to describe the library whose first letters spell MAGA. Guessing they did this to kiss the ring of their king.

The public library is public for a reason and serves the entirety of the residents of our community approximately of which 30% are registered Democrat. The public library is supposed to be neutral and non-partisan. I am asking to vote NO on this ridiculous plaque reported to cost \$7000.

Sincerely,  
Viviana Aviles

Sent from my iPhone