

**Mayor Bailey  
Councilmembers Downey, Donovan, Tanaka and Duncan  
City Manager Tina Friend  
Sept. 19, 2023**

We, the undersigned Coronado residents, are writing to you in support of our library staff and administration. We urge you to keep intact the policies developed by these professionals, which are in accordance with national and state library standards.

Over the last several months, a small group of people have lodged complaints and demanded policy changes for the Library's Children's collections and programs. Initially, this group called for the removal of any programs or materials that touched on issues of gender (specifically LGBTQ+ related) and books that would be deemed sex-education.

They later shifted their demand to the removal of a specific book title from the Children's Story Time program and for parents to be provided with advance information about future programs. In response, the Library made these accommodations. While claiming this was their only objective, the group immediately followed up with more restrictive demands. They have clearly proven themselves to be disingenuous as they advance their narrow political agenda.

Their new demands, if taken in their entirety, would remove all materials with references to the LGBTQ+ community from the Children's Library collections and programs. They also seek to significantly restrict access to health materials dealing with puberty. Historically, no such complaints of this nature have ever been made in our community, and the views of this group in no way represent a majority, or even significant portion, of Coronado residents.

It is axiomatic in a democracy that no one group has the right to impose its view on the entire community. There is nothing wrong with a parent deciding a certain book or program is not right for their child, but there is a colossal moral and legal problem with a parent deciding that no other child or parent should be allowed access to that book.

We believe:

Restricting such materials as demanded by this group is problematic under California law as it is an infringement upon protected rights of members of the community;

Giving into the demands of this group would essentially restrict/eliminate LGBTQ+ materials availability for both pre-teens and their parents;

Should the policies advocated by this group be acceded to, there is no reason to believe this group would not quickly make additional demands to further restrict/eliminate library materials they deem offensive.

In the interest of respecting the time of the council and the community, we do not wish to have every signatory of this letter appear at every city council meeting and speak to this issue. We can do this if the situation demands it, but we see it as a terrible waste of your time, attention and energy. Instead, we ask that you simply reject these calls for new policies and let the professional library staff continue doing the wonderful job they have done for so long to the great benefit of our entire community.

Thank you for your consideration.

1. Ann Goodfellow - I have visited and loved our library for 75 years! The Coronado **PUBLIC** Library has been a cornerstone of our community. My family and friends have availed themselves of the many opportunities the library has to offer, from “Story Time” to project reports, to just plain enjoyment of reading! **I have the “right” and “privilege” to choose what I read.**
2. Doris Besikof, JD ret. 26 year resident of Coronado. Our library is a treasure. One of the great joys in my day is when I visit it and see how open and comfortable it is for all, regardless! One of the challenges in our democracy is protecting and balancing the equality and humanity of all.
3. Gerry MacCartee. I have lived in and loved this town for 50 years...raised two kids and now watch 4 grandkids thrive. The library has always been one of the great community gathering spots for learning and interacting...we are so fortunate to have such a beautiful institution.
4. Rich Steinacher, 4-year resident of Coronado, and visitor and library patron since 1999. Public school teacher, Reading, 20+ years, college professor, 20+ years, and a belief that censorship has no place in a free society.
5. Katy Roberson, 77 year resident and lifelong library user, mother of 3 children who attended Coronado schools K-12, grandmother of toddler who attends Storytime and uses Children’s Library, Former CUSD Board Member, lifelong educator, including 20 years administering early childhood education programs.
6. Mary M. Taylor, 14 year resident. Believer in libraries as strongholds of democracy, inclusion and learning, as IS ours. We are there at least once a week, with children and elderly in tow.
7. Robert M. Taylor, Coronado resident 1950-1968, 2009-present. Devoted patron of the library since 1951. Both I and my youngest daughter are Coronado High graduates who owe our academic successes to the broad and unrestricted resources of our library.
8. Rebecca King, Coronado resident and registered voter; retired military spouse; community volunteer; mother of two (who took both to Coronado Library’s story time regularly); and ardent supporter of democracy and access to information and knowledge for all.
9. Margarita Rhodes, Coronado native and resident. Attended CUSD schools K-12, life-long library user and supporter. I joined Friends of the Coronado Library specifically because of the library’s Pride display.
10. Kimball Worcester, Coronado resident and library devotee. Libraries bring perspective and inspiration to all our lives. Libraries are democracy.
11. Tom Rooney, eight year resident of Coronado, former Teacher of English and Publishing Market Manager, who has seen attempted censorship and vociferously objects to it.
12. Stacey Millstein, resident, registered voter, advocate for ALL CHILDREN. Supporter of CORONADO LIBRARY.
13. Jeff Millstein - resident, registered voter, children’s advocate for learning, supporter of Coronado Library.
14. Bob Herrmann - 25 year resident of Coronado and strong supporter of our public library.

15. M. Suzanne Belmonte - I am a 60-year resident & met my husband here. Both of our children are CHS graduates and attended story-time. Our library provides access to knowledge and helps keep our community informed with facts, rather than confused with fiction.
16. Joseph L. Belmonte - 65-year resident of Coronado. Our library not only creates opportunities for learning, but also helps to ensure that the past knowledge that was created by past generations is available for all to learn.
17. Sharon Lynn Sherman - I am a lifelong resident of Coronado and grew up in our Children's Library. I have been to countries where information is not provided to the populace by its dictators. The free dissemination of information is essential for a democracy to thrive.
18. Sara Wells: resident for over 50 years, and a life-long fan and user of our PUBLIC library. As a mere mortal, who am I to judge what others are allowed to read? Support our Library professional staff!
19. Adrienne O Phillips, 37-year resident of Coronado and lifetime supporter of the library and the Friends of the Library. Our 3 boys grew up going to story time and using the library.
20. Wendy Sanger McGuire: Lifelong resident, booklover, founding member of the Friends of the Coronado Library Endowment Fund. I believe in the fundamental freedom of all to read whatever they want and that our library staff are doing a wonderful job.
21. Kelly Roberson, lifelong Coronado resident, mom of a 2 year old, we visit the library (at least) weekly for story time.
22. Thea Gurns, moved to Coronado because of the library; volunteers at SD Floral Association Library, Balboa Park.
23. Frank King
24. Joan King
25. Elizabeth Copper, resident 48 years, all of our family - mother, daughter, cousins devoted users of the library.
26. Robert Copper, resident 48 years, all of our family - mother, daughter, cousins devoted users of the library.
27. Susan Blanco, 30 year resident, public library supporter
28. Jeff Blanco, 30 year resident, public library supporter
29. Gail Bardin, 32 year resident, aunt and grandmother of 4 CUSD students, and lover of the library.
30. M. Tami Sandke (she/her)- 36 year resident, mother of 2 CUSD graduates and lovers of Story time and library activities, long term library user and volunteer.
31. Mickey Hansen, 47 year Coronado resident with 8 grandchildren in Coronado schools, all former story hour attendees.
32. John Pottridge, Coronado resident and library defender.
33. Terry Zack, Coronado resident and library lover.
34. Angie Byars (Hansen), Coronado native and resident, 3 CUSD students currently
35. Jeffrey Davis, resident since 1994, former principal Coronado High School, 40+ years as an educator in public and private education.
36. Margaret Steinacher, 4 year resident of Coronado, former elementary teacher, grandmother of 10 and supporter of the library.
37. Danell Dwaileebe 28-yr resident. 2 daughters graduated CHS. Support & love our Library.

38. Hillary Karno, 10 year resident of Coronado and love attending all the library events, browsing through the newspapers & magazines and checking out the current exhibits.
39. Heather Frank, 10 year resident. Both of our boys have attended the CUSD school system. Our family has very much enjoyed programs offered by the public library.
40. Dan Frank 10 year resident. Our family frequently uses the library and have attended many programs.
41. Brad Willis, 30 year resident, library lover and father of a son who attended Story Time for years and attended Coronado Public Schools K-12.
42. Mike Marrinan, Coronado resident for 40+ years, all children and grandchildren attended CUSD and we all love the library.
43. Susan Marrinan, Coronado resident for 40+ years, all children and grandchildren attended CUSD and we all love the library.
44. Luan Troxel, two children who attended CUSD and routinely used the library.
45. Bill Seager, 48 year resident, former CUSD teacher & Board Member, father of two K-12 students
46. John Blocker, 38 year resident and book-lover
47. Harold Myers, I have three grandchildren in Coronado.
48. Laura Wilkinson Sinton, resident, library fan and registered voter - Mother of two sons who attended CUSD and Coronado library.
49. Cassie Morton, library fan for past 50 years, mother of 3 CUSD grads, grandmother of seven Children's Story Time patrons.
50. Carolyn Muehlenbeck, twenty-five year resident and mother of four children and two grandchildren who all use the library.
51. Jean Seager, Friends of the Coronado Library Board member and library user.
52. Rob Muehlenbeck, twenty-five year resident and library user.
53. Laura Plumb, 20 year resident and raised a child who attended CUSD K-12 and was nourished by the library.
54. Andrew J. KinCade, father of a CHS student, resident of Coronado since 2016.
55. Ian J. KinCade, father of a CHS student, resident of Coronado since 2016.
56. Jon Sinton, Coronado resident and ardent supporter of our public library.
57. Bill Cass (38 year resident); public library supporter.
58. Tricia Grant Cass; public library supporter.
59. Brian L. Trotier, resident and voter.
60. Janice Lowenberg - resident since 1999, supporter of the library and of their many fine programs.
61. David Lowenberg - resident since 1999, supporter of the library and of their many fine programs.
62. Paul Laedlein, resident since 1983, 2 children who frequented the story hour when young, library lovers in attendance to many of the fine programs, and Naval Aviator.
63. Karen Laedlein, resident since 1983, 2 children who frequented the story hour when young, library lovers in attendance to many of the fine programs, elementary educator.
64. Jill Esrock, resident since 2010. Library lover and supporter of a free press.
65. Cathy McJanet, resident for 33 years, son Went through Coronado school system, and am a lifetime member of Friends of the Library
66. Michael Ives, resident for 5 years, member of the Library.
67. Holly Nappen, 36 yr. Coronado Resident and unflagging supporter of our library.

68. Dennis Nappen, 36 year Coronado Resident who loves and respects the Coronado Library's vital role in our community and society.
69. Marsha Frisbie, 13 year Coronado resident, enthusiastic supporter of the library, registered voter.
70. Van Vogel, 3 year resident, Love the Coronado Library, registered voter.
71. Julia Vogel, 3 Year resident, Love the Coronado Library, registered voter.
72. Jo Hunsaker, Johanna Hunsaker (48 year resident, mother and grandmother of CUSD students, USD Professor, life long library patron)
73. Noah Hansen, 47 year resident of Coronado, 2 children in CUSD and both were regular attendees of story time when they were younger.
74. I've lived in Coronado for 53 years. My kids and grandkids attended Coronado schools from pre school until high school graduation. They loved the library from story time until they graduated.
75. Christie Curran, 7 year Coronado resident. Love our library. My Mother was a lifetime librarian.
76. Kevin Ashley, 7 year Coronado resident. Love our library!
77. Judy Bambace, 28 year resident and lover of our wonderful library.
78. Edry Goot, I have lived in Coronado over 20 years and have often taken my grandchildren to story time! I support our library!
79. Brad Renner, 11 year resident in full support of our public library and its very professional staff.
80. Kathy Renner, 11 year resident and full supporter of our wonderful library.
81. Patrice Makovic, 10 year resident. Both my children graduated from Coronado High School. Libraries should be a place of open and free ideas. Book banning is the opposite. Literature can be sometimes provocative but a library is a place to discover and learn and grow by accepting or rejecting.
82. Katy Green, 56 year resident, daughter attended all Coronado schools and graduated from Coronado High School. I support our professional library staff.
83. Elaine Morrison, four-year resident, public library supporter, educator, former school board member (16 years).
84. Ken Fitzgerald, 35 year resident, four children grew up attending library storytime at Coronado library; 2 children attended Coronado schools.
85. Justin Phillips - Former Coronado resident and long time user of the children's library.
86. John Phillips: Seven year resident of Coronado. The library is a gem. Our public libraries are places where we exercise our right to choose, not prisons where we enforce exclusion.
87. Anne O'Donnell: seven year resident and library supporter.
88. Maryke Davis Coronado resident. The wonderful Coronado Library is for all of us, We are not the judge and jury.
89. Karen Knudsen -Resident for 37 years and a lover of the library and its staff! This is NOT what America is about and NOT what Coronado is about. if you personally are opposed to a certain book then do not read it. Instruct your children that there are certain books you personally dont approve of, and if your child reads them you have an opportunity for learning conversations.
90. Maria Nagy - Eighteen year resident, raised two children who engaged in library programs throughout their youth and remain passionate readers. Public libraries serve the entire public, and are critical to democracies being built and sustained by the ability for all citizens to seek knowledge and make informed decisions.

91. Galen Phillips- former Coronado resident and story time participant and library supporter.
92. Carl Luna, Ph.D, 34-year Coronado Resident, Director Institute Civil Engagement, parent of 4 daughters who grew up at the Coronado Library
93. Jeanne Canton-Luna, 34-year Coronado Resident, retired 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, parent of 4 daughters who grew up at the Coronado Library
94. Rhiannon Luna, Story Time Alumni ,CHS Graduate
95. Arrielle Luna, Coronado Native, Story Time Alumni, CHS Graduate, CHS Sports Medicine Teacher
96. Delaney Luna, Coronado Native, Story Time Alumni, CHS Graduate
97. Cece Canton, 40-year Coronado Resident
98. Corinne Nakawatase, Story Time Alumni, CHS Graduate,
99. Kellen Gil, CHS Graduate, long time Coronado resident
100. Justin Gil, Coronado Resident
101. Lindsey Kiernan, CHS Graduate
102. Jaclyn Oldham, Coronado Native, CHS Graduate
103. Kyle Oldham
104. Hannah Stern, CHS Graduate, Long-time Coronado Resident
105. Carol Adams, Long-time Coronado Resident
106. Jim Besikof, Coronado Resident
107. Colin Phillips- grew up in Coronado and spent many hours in the library
108. Mary Kerley 55 years in Coronado 2 children and 3 grandchildren graduated from CUSD
109. Jim and Pam McCollum - Have been coming to Coronado for over 40 years. Got engaged at the Hotel Del. Moved here 20 years ago and are full-time residents. Our child graduated from CHS. Banning books is absolutely unacceptable and it's un-American. Please protect our wonderful library.
110. Gwyneth Bent - aCoronado resident for over 50 years, CHS graduate, as are both my children. I love our library, let our librarians do their jobs, they are fabulous!
111. Deb Nordlie - 40 year resident, teacher, tutor, and writer. Our librarians know what they're doing and work with the good of the community in mind. Let them do what they do best and let our Coronado community profit from their work. The library should give readers the opportunity to read, explore, and make their own decisions.
112. Paulette Szymanski - 3rd generation Coronado native, CHS alumni
113. Pearl Szymanski - Coronado resident for 55 years
114. Tim Rohan, 62-year Coronado Resident. My father, William Rohan, and Bill Davis helped found the "Friends of the Coronado Library" in 1970. My father (and Bill Davis, though I don't want to speak for Bill), would be appalled by the censorship being attempted by this group. I know my father would feel as I do, "Perhaps parents who are bothered by certain books should do their job, and teach their kids, instead of trying to inflict their beliefs and their responsibilities on the rest of the community.
115. Ellen Breitner - 8 year resident of Coronado.
116. Linda Cooper Benning - Graduate of CHS and retired teacher from CHS. I ran the school library for 12 years, served on the Friends of the Library Board, and taught English and theatre at CHS and the CoSA program. My daughter attended Coronado schools from grade 1-12 and worked in the Public Library. Censorship negates the rights of all who use our public library. Everyone is entitled to freedom of choice with

their reading materials. The library is for ALL people and should reflect all opinions and beliefs not just those of a select group.

117. Peggy Templeman 20-year resident. DO NOT let a small group of people who want to severely restrict their own children from reading and exploring the real world affect the majority who want to raise open minded, accepting and kind children, just like Jesus taught.
118. Genevieve Rohan- Coronado Resident for 19 years. Stepmom to two young men who attended Coronado High School. Daughter of two 30 year educators. I'd like to emphasize the importance of intellectual freedom and the importance of kids having access to a wide range of ideas and perspectives. LGBTQ+ individuals and their families also have the right to access materials that reflect their experiences and identities. Libraries are essential institutions for promoting democracy, free speech, and open access to information. The group of parents who are concerned about what their children may learn about at the library can manage the books their children read. They do not need to remove the books from the library. This equates to banning books and sets a dangerous precedent.
119. Keith Prentiss - Coronado resident for 12 years; daughter attended pre-K through current year (7th grade); proud supporter of our local library and the right to choose which books to read.
120. Jan Kass-Coronado resident for 34-years. 2 daughters who went through the school with great access and use of the library. Proud grandmother of 5-year-old twins who love the library. This move to limit books for children is an overreach by people who have certain beliefs that they feel free to impose on everyone else. This is a town made up of people of many beliefs who deserve access to books that interest them. Please do not bow to people who would impose their preferences on the rest of us
121. Susan Schelkun-Coronado resident for 33 years and former library technician at Coronado Middle School. I support our local library and believe that we should have freedom of choice in reading.
122. Adam Garson - Coronado resident, voter, parent of two school-aged children, and public library supporter.
123. Karen Moore - Coronado resident for 22 years. Library supporter who believes books are for everyone.
124. Jayne Ricker - Coronado resident for 30 years. Proud supporter of our local library and their professional staff.
125. Evie Patton - Coronado resident for 10 years, married to resident born and raised in Coronado since 1947. Libraries are essential institutions supporting democracy, free speech and open access to information. If a parent doesn't approve of their child's reading material, by all means manage what they read. Public libraries are for all the public. The Coronado library has been managed well.
126. Dot Harms- Parents are free to monitor what their children read, see on TV and social media content. Public Libraries are to provide universal access to educational and cultural materials in all formats thus promoting literacy and lifelong learning. Censorship of what is available in our public library becomes a slippery slope away from intellectual freedom. We have an outstanding library.
127. Paul Phillips- Coronado resident for over 30 years whose family uses the library often. While I'm sympathetic with a small minority's concerns about book selection for children, those parents are present in the library with their child and can curate their

child's cultural exposures for themselves. They should not be dictating to the community at large nor to the professionals who do such an excellent job keeping our library collection diverse and current.

128. Paul Kadota - Grew up in Coronado and spent several summers completing reading challenges at this library. In my early years, I had an independent choice of reading material. This led to explorations of works of fantasy and science fiction that would help define my positive and overall hopeful outlook on life.
129. Marlene Bartlett - Have lived in Coronado on and off since 1989 and have enjoyed the library with my students, children and grandchildren.
130. Joseph Moore, 22-year Coronado resident. One of the last things Coronado needs is the kind of censorship that we, as signers of this letter, are speaking against. I fully support the library as it is currently run.
131. Whitney Antrim, lifelong Coronado resident, parent of 2 enthusiastic patrons of the Children's section. Please do not give in to extremism. I trust and support our library staff to properly manage our public library without political interference.
132. Kenan Gultekin, Coronado resident, parent of two children who love the library. Let them read.
133. Kirby Barnum - 1980 CHS graduate and mother to a senior. We can not give in to extremism. I fully support the library as it is currently run.
134. Mary D Sikes. For forty years, 3 generations of my family have enjoyed the hospitality and professionalism of our Library. I took all my grandchildren to "story hour" as youngsters. This library has been without complaint nor controversy for decades. It is a treasure for a grateful community.