



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 24, 2024
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Challenged Materials in Borough Libraries: After the most recent challenged materials review committee meeting on January 18, I am suspending our challenged review materials policy. The meetings have devolved into a shouting match and name-calling that is not producing a positive outcome for our community. I acknowledge the value of having a process for patrons to challenge material, but until such time as we can come up with a different approach, there is no value in continuing to put materials through the current process.

Since this process began, the status of four books has changed because of the challenges. Three books were moved from the young adult section to the adult section, and one was removed from the shelf altogether. Our libraries have not provided materials that violate state or federal laws. If material were identified as violating a law, it would be removed immediately.

Additionally, we are changing the labeling of the young adult section from ages 14-17 to 16-17. This is intended to communicate that there may be materials in the young adult section that some may deem inappropriate for 14- and 15-year-olds, and parents can make those decisions. Borough youth library cards require a parental signature acknowledging that control of what a minor checks out is the responsibility of the parent. The parent of record can log into their children's accounts online to view what has been checked out, and our libraries will provide check-out information to them as well.

Additionally, I have asked staff to cancel the Library Advisory Board meeting that was planned for February 13 for the reasons stated above. I will provide an update at the next Assembly meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Assembly and Mat-Su Legislators

Mat-Su Assembly and Mayor will serve 4-year terms

ADN

[Borough Assembly opts for four-year terms for Mayor, Assembly](#)

Frontiersman

[Assembly Encourages Firearms for Citizens](#)

Alaska-Public Media

[Mat-Su legislator loses part of social media lawsuit after judge's ruling](#)

Alaska Public Media

[Alaska Borough Urges Residents to Get Ammo and Arm Themselves](#)

Western Journal

Arctic Winter Games

[Dog mushing won't return to this year's Arctic Winter Games despite host society's efforts](#)

CBC

[MTA announces \\$75,000 sponsorship for Mat-Su 2024 Arctic Winter Games](#)

PR Newswire

Trends

[Alaska's population trends towards stabilization with net-negative migration seeing reductions](#)

KTVF-Fairbanks

[Property values up 5.6 percent in Mat-Su but new construction slows](#)

Frontiersman

Future Events:

- Mat-Su Transportation Fair, Raven Hall, Alaska State Fairgrounds, Thurs., January 25, 3pm - 7pm. (Use the Red Gate of the Alaska State Fairgrounds to get to Raven Hall.)