

1 | OBJECTED MATERIAL BOOK APPEAL – Let's Talk About It

May 26, 2023

Eric Phillips
Mat-Su Community Development Director
Mat-Su Borough Building
350 S Dahlia Ave
Palmer AK 99645

RE: Appeal of decision

Dear Eric;

As the patron who complained to Hugh Leslie, Parks, Recreation and Library Services, about the book LET'S TALK ABOUT IT by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan^(Exhibit A), this is my written appeal of the decision rendered Thursday, May 18th, 2023 at the Objected Material Meeting. I am appealing the decision for four reasons:

#1 – The hearing committee was composed of four library-affiliated members. Librarians Cassidy Drake of Big Lake and Julie Buzby of Sutton; and Library Board Members Mary Fischer of Talkeetna and Kathy Kysar of Sutton. There was no individual involved in the verdict who does not have a likely bias in this matter.

#2 – There was a statement made by Library Mary Fischer on record and video about what constitutes grooming. These are her exact words (and it sounds as if she refers to children as "it"):

"If this book were handed to each child when it came in or recommended to each child when it came in and there were posters on the wall of the pictures in it, that would be grooming. Putting a book on the shelf is not grooming. It is not pushing anything. It's simply giving a point of view."

The nomenclature "grooming" in the above sentence makes it clear the reference is to sexual grooming of children and not grooming of pets, horses, human cleanliness or hair styling. Establishing what the grooming of children means yields the following information:

REC'D COMMUNITY DEVELO
2023 MAY 26 PM2:08:35

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1- "befriending and establishing an emotional connection with a child, often without the child's consent, and sometimes the child's family, to groom the child into a relationship with sexual abuse" ^(Wikipedia)

2- "Grooming has become synonymous with sexual abuse" ^(Wikipedia)

First email requesting a meeting sent **June 2, 2026**

(No response)

2nd email request for a meeting email sent **June 11, 2026**

<jivie_58@hotmail.com>

Sent: [Tuesday, June 2, 2026 11:51](#)

[AM](#)

To: Julie Mitchell

<julie.mitchell@matsugov.us>

Subject: Library Material
Reconsideration Request

Dear Ms. Mitchell,

I just formally entered a Library Material Reconsideration Request for the book LET'S TALK ABOUT IT by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan. It has been exactly three years since the final decision regarding this book was written by Eric Phillips, Former Director of Community Affairs of the Mat-Su Borough.

I am requesting that the book be removed from the library . Please let me know when we can meet about

<jivie_58@hotmail.com>

Sent: [Thursday, June 11, 2026 7:10](#)

[PM](#)

To: Julie Mitchell

<julie.mitchell@matsugov.us>

Subject: Fw: Library Material
Reconsideration Request

---SECOND REQUEST---

Dear Ms. Mitchell,

It has been nine days since I requested a meeting with you regarding a Library Material Reconsideration Request for the book LET'S TALK ABOUT IT by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan currently available through the Willow library. As it is a requirement of the process to meet with the librarian, I am once again requesting a date when we can meet.

Thank you,

**Response from librarian on June 11, 2026
(CC'd to Andy Mergens)**

My email response sent June 12, 2026

<julie.mitchell@matsugov.us>

Sent: [Thursday, June 11, 2026 7:39 PM](#)

To: Jackie Ivie

<jivie_58@hotmail.com>

Cc: Andy Mergens

<Andy.Mergens@matsugov.us>

Subject: RE: Library Material
Reconsideration Request

Dear Ms. Goforth,
It is no longer a required step of the Library Material Reconsideration process to meet with the Librarian. My understanding is your request for reconsideration will be addressed at the next scheduled Matanuska Susitna Library Board Meeting which is scheduled for [8/11/2026](#). If you have questions about the current process, please contact Andy Mergens, Parks, Recreation & Library Services Division Manager at [907-861-7883](tel:907-861-7883).

From: Jackie Ivie

<jivie_58@hotmail.com>

Sent: [Friday, June 12, 2026 11:58 AM](#)

To: Julie Mitchell

<julie.mitchell@matsugov.us>

Subject: RE: Library Material
Reconsideration Request

Thank you so much for the courtesy of a reply. I really appreciate it.

I see that the policy now has no mention of a required meeting. I didn't realize that had been changed.

Please accept my apologies for any inconvenience I may have inadvertently caused.

Respectfully,
Jackie Goforth



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Recreation & Library Services

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 861-8564 • Fax (907) 861-8635

Recreational.services@matsugov.us

<http://www.matsugov.us>

MEMO

Date: April 14, 2025

From: Jillian Morrissey, Community Development Director

To: Library Advisory Board and the Library Citizens' Advisory Committee

RE: Update on Library Materials Reconsideration and Strategic Planning Initiatives

The Library Citizens' Advisory Committee (LCAC) has reviewed six (6) books since the commencement of their work. As of the reconsideration request submittal, all six books were shelved in the Young Adult collection and have since been reshelfed in the Adult section of the library collections at their respective libraries. These final decisions have been made following comprehensive legal counsel, with careful consideration of the dispositions provided by the citizens' advisory group. While advisory dispositions have not been adopted, the concerns raised by certain members of the LCAC and public testimony have been noted. This memo will address the ongoing efforts to respond to these concerns.

1. Library Strategic Planning Process

The Community Development Department initiated a Library Strategic Planning process in the winter of 2025 to guide improvements in library operations, including policy updates, technology enhancements, and procedural refinements. The department utilized Borough procurement to engage a contractor for this project. Significant public outreach was conducted through in-person open houses and meetings, engaging advisory boards, staff, and key stakeholders. The contractor meticulously documented this outreach and research before concluding their contract.

Moving forward, the Community Development department will lead the analysis of the gathered data and will oversee the drafting of the Plan narrative. To ensure a comprehensive plan, additional data will be collected to inform the final Strategic Plan, which will be completed this summer. As part of this process, a survey was published on April 8th for families with children who hold a Borough library card. This survey, focused on parents and guardians, will provide valuable insights as part of our continued efforts to enhance library services and resources for our community. The survey will close on May 8th.

Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community.

2. **Materials Submitted for Reconsideration**

Currently, there are ten (10) books in the LCAC 'Materials Submitted for Reconsideration' queue, either under review or awaiting review by the body. Four (4) of these books have already been reviewed by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District (MSBSD) LCAC and presented to the MSBSD School Board for final decisions. Below are the titles and their corresponding decisions:

- *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison – Returned to the library of origin and reshelfed
- *Verity* by Colleen Hoover – Removed from MSBSD libraries
- *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen – Returned to the library of origin and reshelfed
- *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch* by Gregory Maguire – Returned to the library of origin and reshelfed

The Borough LCAC may choose to take this information under advisement and engage in discourse on this matter on the dais and opt to leverage the work of the MSBSD LCAC to expedite further material reviews.

3. **New Responsibilities Beginning August 12, 2025**

Commencing August 12, 2025, the Borough's Library Advisory Board will be taking on new responsibilities as part of process improvements. This appointed group will begin reviewing batched library collection procurement materials. If any member has reservations regarding specific materials, those items may be flagged for further discussion at a subsequent meeting.

Further details will be provided to the Board by staff as August approaches to ensure a smooth transition and facilitate their work.

We are committed to sharing updates with the public, elected officials, and advisory boards as more information becomes available.

And don't forget—everybody's got a butt!

After the train has left the station (so to speak) and you've had a chance to wash up or douche back there, you can have an assload of fun with a healthy heaping of lube.

Apply broad pressure to the outside of the entrance.

Circle your buttock with your finger, pausing any time a spot feels extra good.

Dip just the tip of your finger inside. Let your anus pull it in when it's ready, instead of forcing it.

Dive deeper with your finger or a butt plug! Just make sure any objects you put up there have a flared base; otherwise, your hungry heinie can gobble it up and the only way to get it back out is a trip to the hospital.

Make sure to wash your hands before touching any of your other body parts, especially the vulva! Or wear latex gloves and toss 'em when you're done.

