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July 23, 2024

Honorable Alesia Jones
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano Superior Court
600 Union Ave
Fairfield CA 94533

REGARDING: County Board of Supervisors response to FY2023-2024 Civil Grand Jury Report, "Book Banning in Solano County?"

Dear Honorable Judge Jones,

The Solano County Board of Supervisors, under Penal Code sections §933 and §933.05, is responding to the following findings and recommendations contained in the FY2023/24 Civil Grand Jury Report entitled: "*Book Banning in Solano County?*"

Civil Grand Jury Finding 1

Not all public-school libraries publicize policies and procedures to address how a request to ban a book is implemented.

Response to Finding 1

Director of Library Services: As to the one public school library that is operated by Solano County Library, Solano County Library partially disagrees with the finding as it has policies and procedures in place for requests for reconsideration which are posted to its staff intranet but not fully on its public website.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Solano County Director of Library Services response.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendation 1

All public-school libraries within the County update (or create) and publicize uniform policies and procedures on how to reject inappropriate book banning proposals.

Response to Recommendation 1

Director of Library Services: This recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented within the next three months as Solano County Library will post its request for reconsideration process to its public website.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Solano County Library Services' Executive Director's response.

Civil Grand Jury Finding 2

Public school libraries run the risk of monetary fines if they do not comply with the new regulations by July 2025, incurring potential fiscal risk.

Response to Finding 2

Director of Library Services: As to the one public school library that is operated by Solano County Library, Solano County Library agrees with the finding affecting public school district libraries as detailed in California Assembly Bill 1078.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Solano County Director of Library Services response.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendation 2

All public-school libraries adopt uniform policies and procedures incorporating requirements of the new law by July 2025, thereby avoiding the possibility of future fines.

Response to Recommendation 2

Director of Library Services: This recommendation has been implemented as the County Library has policies and procedures in place for requests for reconsideration.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Solano County Director of Library Services response.

Civil Grand Jury Finding 3

Not all school library staff members have been properly trained to address the general public’s interest in requests for banning, which may lead to further issues in implementing the new regulations.

Response to Finding 3

Director of Library Services: As to the one public school library that is operated by Solano County Library, Solano County Library partially disagrees with the finding as appropriate staff are trained on the request for reconsideration process, which does not include every library staff member.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Solano County Director of Library Services response.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendation 3

Implement appropriate training for all staff members who will need to address the issue when approached by the public.

Response to Recommendation 3

Director of Library Services: This recommendation has been implemented as the County Library has provided training for appropriate staff on its request for reconsideration process.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Solano County Director of Library Services response.

Civil Grand Jury Finding 4

Not all public-school libraries have standing panels or committees with librarians who are qualified for each genre of books to respond to requests for banning, which could lead to inconsistent application of the new regulations.

Response to Finding 4

Director of Library Services: Solano County Library partially disagrees with the finding as Solano County Library convenes a review panel of age-appropriate subject matter experts to respond to requests for reconsideration.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Solano County Director of Library Services response.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendation 4

All public-school libraries within the County establish standing panels or committees who respond to requests for banning, consisting of members familiar with library literature and knowledge of the requirements of the new regulation.

Response to Recommendation 4

Director of Library Services: This recommendation has been implemented as the County Library has a process inclusive of panel review for all requests for reconsideration.

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Solano County Director of Library Services response.

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, we would like to thank the Solano County Civil Grand Jury for their time and attention to County processes and operations. Thank you for the opportunity to address your findings and recommendations – and for your work and contributions to the overall success of Solano County in services to our residents.

Sincerely,



Mitch Mashburn
District 5 Supervisor
Chair, Solano County Board of Supervisors

cc: Cheryl Clower, Administrative Assistant, Solano County Civil Grand Jury
Suzanne Olawski, Director of Library Services