A Resolution
Approving the Updated
Reconsideration of Library Materials Policy

Luke Alvey-Henderson, Library Director

Strategic Plan goals:
Safety and Quality of Life
**Mission** (Why we exist)  
“We provide outstanding services and experiences for the entire community.”

**Vision** (What we want to be)  
“A multigenerational community which is authentic, diverse, engaged, thriving, and environmentally responsible.”

**Values** (What we believe in)  
Teamwork | Dependability | Professionalism | Service | Respect | Innovation | Well-Being
BACKGROUND

• Our Reconsideration policy outlines how we consider removing a title or moving it to another section.
• Last revised our Reconsideration of Library Materials Policy in 2018
• A new state law went into affect on May 31st*
• We are making two minor revisions to fully reflect the new law

*SB24-216 Standards for Decisions Regarding Library Resources
The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

I Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

II Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
III Libraries should **challenge censorship** in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

IV Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with **resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas**.

V A person’s right to use a library should not be **denied** or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

VI Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such **facilities available on an equitable basis**, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

VII All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a **right to privacy and confidentiality** in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people’s privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.
ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom documented **1,247 demands to censor library books and resources in 2023.** The number of titles targeted for censorship surged 65% in 2023 compared to 2022, reaching the highest levels ever documented in more than 20 years of tracking: **4,240 unique book titles were targeted for removal from schools and libraries.**

Our last challenge was in 2019.
Last year our state had over 140 titles challenged with just 12 incidents.
Where Do Challenges Take Place?
Pressure groups in 2023 focused on public libraries in addition to targeting school libraries. The number of titles targeted for censorship at public libraries increased by 92% over the previous year; school libraries saw an 11% increase.

Statistics based on 1,247 cases with known locations.
Anyone challenging a book **must live within the library’s service area.**

A challenged book cannot be removed from shelves while under reconsideration.

**ADDITIONS**

- A public library **cannot review a book** or other material that’s already been evaluated **more than once every two years**

- Any challenge to a book is now subject to the [Colorado Open Records Act](https://www.cora.state.co.us), or **CORA**. That means that the name and address of a challenger would not be redacted.
I make a motion to approve R-2024 0042 approving the updated Durango Public Library Reconsideration of Library Materials Policy.