

9/07/2022

Dear Josephine Tucci, Sheri Doniger, Michelle Kapusta, Heidi Hedstrom, Mary Silber, Richard Sloan, Georgia Talaganis, and Pamela Stavinoga:

There is a book in the early literacy section of the Lincolnwood Library that we object to. It is called "The Hips on the Drag Queen Go Swish, Swish, Swish." The cover has an illustration of three drag queens, one who has a full beard and a moustache. It is colorful and attracts attention.

Drag queens are adult entertainment. They are hypersexualized caricatures of women that have no place in children's literature, and they don't present a female image that we are comfortable exposing our children to. Our kids are innocent on topics such as this, and we have decided, as parents, not to introduce this subject matter to them. It doesn't seem the least bit controversial to say that young children - those who browse the early literacy section- would have a hard time processing the reality of men dressing like women.

They won't and should not understand why hips should go 'swish, swish, swish' and it's certainly not something we want our children to emulate.

We have no issues with drag queens. Everyone has a right to self-expression.

We have issues with people who want to expose our children to adult topics before they are emotionally or intellectually mature enough to understand them. Children in the community will see these images of men dressed like women and read the words 'drag queen.' This may start conversations about these topics long before parents intend to have them.

We've been told by fellow community members that the library director feels that displaying books like this is a matter of representation and inclusion. She has also said that no one has to take this book home. This inappropriate content is on the cover of the book. There is no way to let children browse in the early literacy section and have them NOT be exposed to these topics.

We firmly agree that all members of our community should be represented and included. To us, this is not an issue of inclusion or representation. This is an issue of appropriateness and who gets to decide when and how our children get exposed to adult topics. The Lincolnwood Library does not get to decide when and how our children learn about hypersexualized individuals and drag queens.

Your Core Values state that the Lincolnwood Library values a welcoming environment for all members of the community. Lincolnwood is very diverse in its ethnic, cultural, and religious make-up, and this book displayed front and center at the library and read at story hour (without forewarning) at our parks does not reflect the values of community members from these diverse backgrounds.

We are finding it difficult to feel that our families are represented or included at the Lincolnwood Library. Decisions like this increasingly make us feel that our kids are more and more likely to be exposed to adult themes while browsing early reader books at their local library. We are finding it increasingly hard to trust the Lincolnwood Library to have our families' best interest at heart. We are imploring you to consider all residents of this town when you are choosing materials and media for the library and regulating access to these materials. Finally, we are challenging you to ACTUALLY be inclusive of all neighbors and taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Lincolnwood Library patrons, and the ethnically/religiously diverse members of this community

(The people who signed this letter on the attached pages did so in person, via text, email and phone).

- Yoomin Kim
- Jong Won Kim
- Minh Nguyen

- Rod Almendras
- Maricar Almendras
- Mark Obermann
- Pauline Obermann
- Esther O'Reilly
- Matt O'Reilly
- Allison Berger
- Kevin Le
- Neil Machaya
- Youleen Machaya
- Eleni Georgakopoulos
- Dimitrios Georgakopoulos
- Alisa Mezbur
- Anam Mirza
- Veronica Velimirovic
- Kari Gutstein
- Yonah Gutstein
- Dr. Daniel Gutstein
- Zamir Kothawala
- Asmakhatun Kothawala
- Maaria Kothawala
- Aatika Kothawala
- Ivan J. Kosir
- Silvia Kosir
- Tony Kosir
- Jacqueline Kosir
- Maria Kosir
- John Kosir
- Erin Oleniczak
- Melissa Theodore
- Valerie Spyropoulos
- Bryan Johnson
- Stacey Johnson
- Maritza Ihmoud
- Monika Gabal
- Ksenija Hrvojevic
- Frank Hrvojevic
- Djurdjica Ziman
- Zlatko Ziman
- Brigita Sivric
- Tony Sivric
- Tanya Soce
- Ivanka Soce
- Peter Soce
- Anna Hurtado
- Janet Tomsa
- Raul Tomsa
- Adeline Big
- Michael Big
- Denis Tomsa

- Ana Tomsa
- Simona Adelean
- Calin Ardelean
- Flavius Ardelean
- Nikki Crisan
- Vasile Crisan
- Kathy Knobel
- Bianca Gabor
- Nathaniel Gabor
- Alina Berzes
- Claudia Pavel
- Vicky Bogdan
- Esther Butcu
- Anna Maria Tamas
- Denis Marie
- Andreea Oros
- Ligia Fechete
- Daniel Fechete
- Angie Mihulets
- Liviu Mihulets
- Beni Mihulets
- Corina Curescu
- Cristina Smalberger
- Monica Tomsa

Lincolnwood Muslims Group

Please join our WhatsApp group

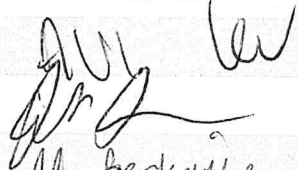
Contact Ata Ur Rehman at 773-443-2476

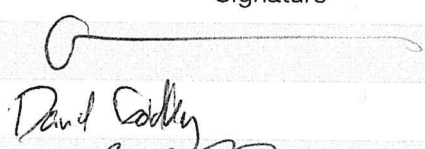
A platform created to keep our community
Connected & United!

Print Name	Signature
Amal Yaghmour	
Sana Hashlamoun	Sana
Khader yaghmour	
Abdelrahman Yaghmour	
NoHA Rakhal	
Abdallah Algaseem	
Rana Yaghmour	
Sara Mutaseb Huda	Sara Huda
Rushdi Hashlamoun	rushedy
Fay shaiban	fayr
Eid Hashlamoun	Eid
Ragad Hashlamoun	Ragad
Rania suleiman	
Samir suleiman	smeir suleiman

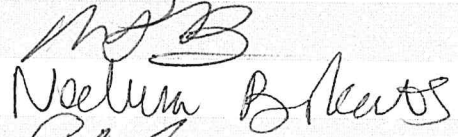
Print Name

Signature

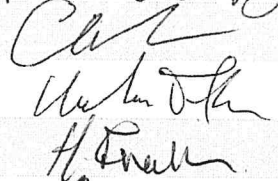
Avi Lev



David Coddin

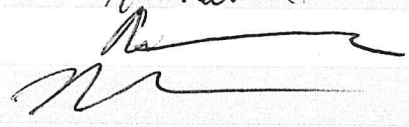
Moshe Berkowitz
Noelum Berkowitz


Noelum Berkowitz

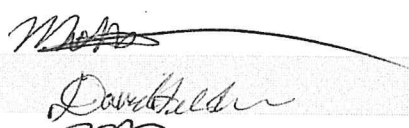
Carol Ann Frank
Malika Frank


Carol Ann Frank

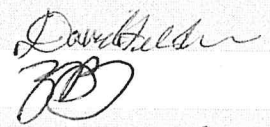
Hinda Frank
Suncha Francis


Hinda Frank

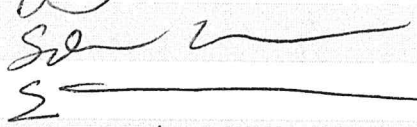
Trippy Polstein
Moshe Polstein


Trippy Polstein

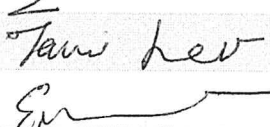
David Feldman
Zahava Berger


David Feldman

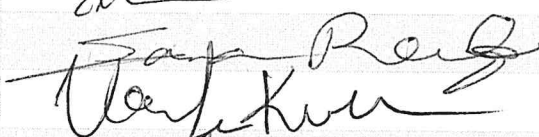
Shulamit Levine
Elie Levine


Shulamit Levine

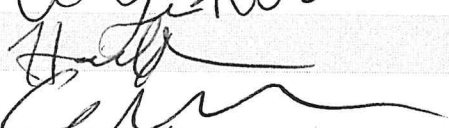
Tami Lev
Emmie Rosenblum


Tami Lev

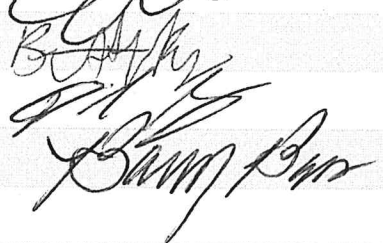
Sara Reifer
Vera Krinsky


Sara Reifer

Hillel Krinsky
Elana Meyers


Hillel Krinsky

Brittany Ray
DAVID RAY
BARRY BASS


Brittany Ray
DAVID RAY
BARRY BASS

Print Name

Signature

EMAIL APPROVALS

YAAKOV GARFINKEL

||

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JONATHAN ABRAMOWITZ

AVIVA ABRAMOWITZ

EZRIEL WOLF

SHAINDY WOLF

MOSHE POLSTEIN

TZIPPY POLSTEIN

MEIR FINE

YO CHEVED FINE

ELI LEVINE

SHULAMIS LEVINE

SHALOM BERGVOY

SHIZJE TAERBAUM

JOY FINESTONE

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