

**Public Comment on Diversity Statement
August 19 – August 25, 2020**

From: SPARKY MAGA2020 [mailto:bobrobcardillo@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2020 1:02 PM
Subject: Please Stop VIRTUE SIGNALING.

Please stop using our Nevada Public Library system as a platform to display your own ignorance and pathetic need to send the world a signal that you are an immensely virtuous person. Maybe you should educate yourself before endorsing Black Lives Matter, an organization you obviously know less than nothing about. Isn't the library a great asset and a place to read and learn?

What are you doing there except embarrassing the people you work for, "We the people...", the residents of Nevada?

Black Lives Matter is a "shake down" outfit that cares nothing about people of any color unless they interrupt their flow of billions of dollars they extract from corporations out of fear of being called "racist". Questioning their activities is "racist", end of story.

Hate and fear is their "bread & butter" and you are nothing but a catalyst, a useful idiot driven by your own inadequate personality into announcing support for Black Lives Matter.

Thousands of blacks have been and will continue to be murdered in Chicago, Detroit, Baltimore, and other cities but Black Lives Matter is silent on that issue, they're nowhere to be found. BLM avoids those victims because they can't extract money from poor, hopeless, grieving families.

Open your ears to the cries of those mothers and families, forever shattered, as they witness their children, even babies being shot in the head. Get over yourself and listen to those black victims instead of being driven by a misguided needy ego telling you to announce to the world that you are a "virtuous person" and a useful idiot to an evil organization of vicious parasites.

Bob Cardillo

From: Linda Gomez-Prescott [mailto:gomezlindasue@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2020 2:46 PM
Subject: Diversity Statement

Good afternoon!

I've given a lot of thought about the situation we've recently had in our county. I have several thoughts that I'd like to share.

1. Black Lives Matter: It is a slogan that I personally find offensive, just as if I were to post a sign that said "White Lives Matter", or "Asian Lives Matter". The point being is that All lives matter! All is a word that means "every member" or "everybody". We want to use words that

are inclusive, not exclusive. All encompasses young and old, all races, all generations, all political parties, and well just everyone.

2. A statement about diversity should be a statement that includes everyone! We want to honor all races, cultures, and generations. So how do we do that? The library should, and I believe does provide books on many different subjects and viewpoints. Elected officials should seek to start a dialogue with any group that feels under represented. Each member of Carson Valley should be valued.

3. I support law and order. Law and order provides a structure to our society. I support our sheriff department. They do an excellent job. We should not be considering defunding. That will lead to chaos.

4. I was disappointed to hear that there was intimidation that occurred at the protest. Our country allows persons to peaceably assemble. All though I do not agree with the platform of Black Lives Matter, they should have been allowed to voice their opinion without being harassed.

5. I enjoy our library and they do an excellent job.

Please give these thoughts your consideration when you consider drafting a diversity statement.

From: Denise Suglia [mailto:Suglia@SBCGlobal.net]

Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2020 11:51 AM

Cc: khildebrand@recordcourier.com

Subject: Outrage at the behavior of Douglas County and support for Amy Dodson

I know the Library Board meets this week and I want to express my unswerving support of Amy Dodson and her humane stance on supporting "Black Lives Matter." The latest article in the Record Courier mentioned an "independent investigation." Investigate what, exactly? This should not be about politics. The term "Black Lives Matter" does not mean they matter more than other lives. It means if Black lives don't matter, then no lives matter, including "blue lives." We ALL matter equally.

Every time I read another article of the disrespect of Sheriff Coverly for races other than whites in Douglas County, I am outraged all over again. Douglas County should be ashamed that they continue to support the sheriff and "investigate" the librarian. Although all the counter-demonstrators on August 8 are probably not Douglas County residents, the fact that Douglas County condones and welcomes that behavior does not reflect well on them. Nevada and, in fact, much of the country have eyes on Douglas County and are appalled that such racism exists here in our state.

I am not Black. I am an older white woman who is carefully adhering to social distancing and avoiding large crowds. I would have liked nothing better than to show up on August 8 to show my support for "Black Lives Matter." We all know that demonstration would not have been

scheduled in that particular county if not for the disgraceful comments posted by Sheriff Coverly. Do the right thing. Make us proud to be Nevadans.

Denise Kelly

Carson City NV

From: Cy Haynes [mailto:cyhaynes@charter.net]

Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2020 9:42 AM

Subject: ATTN: Amy Dobson

Amy Dobson

Douglas County Library

We are writing to offer our support to you and the Library Board of Directors in your efforts to present a diverse and welcoming environment at our library. The comments by our Sherriff were unnecessary, shocking, and clearly out of line. As a result, we watched in horror the videos of the angry armed mob openly harassing, spitting on and herding peaceful demonstrators. It was disturbing to say the least.

It is most concerning that it is you and your Board that are being investigated and not the Sherriff. Please continue to do the right thing.

Respectfully,

Chery & Robert Haynes

Minden, NV

From: Arline Zeidler <qibreathe@gmail.com>

Date: August 23, 2020 at 9:22:17 AM PDT

Subject: Thank you

Hi Ms. Dodson,

I called the library and spoke to Veronica. She took a message from me to give to you. I understand these past several weeks have been perhaps somewhat chaotic and stressful. I am writing this note to thank you for your interracial compassion and for the library's beginning effort to stand for justice and equity for all people, for all potential individuals that enjoy the service our library gives.

I would love to sit over a cup of coffee and talk some day. All of us can hold the light for the other. There is no need for any of us to apologize for holding the light on racial injustices.

Hope you are well and enjoy each day.

Sincerely,

Arline Zeidler

775-790-3414

From: marcyvoss@gmail.com [mailto:marcyvoss@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 3:13 PM
To: Douglas Co. Public Library <info@douglas.lib.nv.us>
Subject: Public comment on Agenda item regarding Amy Dodson/Investigation

Hello,

I believe that there needs to be an investigation done regarding the recent decisions/behavior of Amy Dodson, however, I believe the investigation should be expanded to cover complaints received over recent the years. Since there have been several formal complaints and disciplinary discussions by the Library Board of Trustees in the past regarding Amy Dodson, I believe there is a larger issue. In October/November 2019 the Library Foundation tried to raise several concerns regarding Amy's behavior, guidance and decisions that impacted the Library Foundation. These facts were not allowed to be presented to the Library Board of Trustees. In January 2020 the Library Foundation was told by Amy Dodson that they were no longer needed by the library and a decision was made to disband the Library Foundation. As the Library Foundation was disbanded, I was voted to be the keeper of their records, I feel that it is my responsibility to inform the Board to these issues. If you vote to proceed with the investigation, I would like to have the related records of the Library Foundation (meeting minutes and emails) be included in the investigation to get a more complete accounting of Amy's behavior. I am happy to provide whatever assistance might be needed.

Thank you for your consideration,

Margaret Voss

Library Foundation Treasurer

From: Don bird [mailto:bird.nevada@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 7:12 AM
Subject: BLM

Library MUST BE non-political! You would think that the head of the library would read up on what the BLM organization stands for prior to posting support.

Don Bird

Gardnerville

From: Barb Geibel [mailto:barb.geibel@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 3:31 AM
Subject: Investigative firm

To the Library Board:

It would be helpful to know why the board is considering hiring an outside firm to “investigate recent events “. To what end? What events would require the need for such an Investigation?

If it is due to the crafting of director Dodson’s proposed statement, it seems excessive, expensive and a case of overkill. Might that money be better spent? Can’t the board question staff themselves? This smacks a bit of the Reno Covid spending debacle where 300 rooms were set up for patients who never came yet rent & utilities are still bring laid. (See Reno’s Sunday paper for details.)

This all seems rather bureaucratic to me with more than a bit of political posturing. Don’t we all know that public libraries should be warm open, welcoming inclusive places for all? Must we issue a statement for the obvious?

It seems that the real issue that has created such a tempest in our teapot/county is the inclusion of BLM. The phrase itself no longer means what it once did. The organization itself & what it proclaims is what is at the it’s heart of this controversy.

With that line removed from Dodson’s proposed statement there is no problem , other than a proclamation stating what should already be obvious. Is such a statement really necessary? Do we really need to be so P.C.? I think not.

Should the director be reprimanded? Should the sheriff? Both are public servants.

Barbara Geibel
Gardnerville NV

From: Helen Kolbe [mailto:hekolbe@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 10:03 AM
Subject: Agenda today

An investigation into a national diversity statement issued by the ALA and adopted by libraries across the country, a statement on the agenda for discussion only, is a waste of county funds and honestly disrespectful to those community members, my mother Elizabeth Johnson, the Elizabeth Johnson Conference Room, library card no. 1,(named by county), who with so many other community members long forgotten spent endless hours on this project, endless miles to Nevada prisons to start libraries, endless hours coordinating the lending library system, the friends of libraries, the book mobile.

The community needs to know the duties of the library and the librarian. This matter has gotten out of hand and many members of the community are personally vilifying the librarian. And the Board does not seem to be supporting the library or librarian.

Aaron Ford, the Nevada Attorney General, in a published statement said Mr. Coverley threatened to withhold services in contradiction to his duties.

Although appointed by county commissioners - some of whom appear to have attended protest and have stated their personal opinions, they and the Board have a duty to the community to follow the standards of the ALA and also respect the institution of the library. Robert Pruitt, then commissioner, said we didn't need a library!!

What a shame! My mother's portrait hangs on the wall in the conference room. I wonder what she would say.

Helen Johnson
Fourth Generation Carson Valley
