

City of San José, California

COUNCIL POLICY

TITLE LIBRARY MATERIALS AND SERVICES	PAGE 1 of 1	POLICY NUMBER 0-3
EFFECTIVE DATE March 29, 1971	REVISED DATE	
APPROVED BY COUNCIL ACTION		March 29, 1971

BACKGROUND

Requests have been received at various times, by individuals or organizations, to remove books and other literature from the library which in the requestor's opinion were offensive to racial, religious or other groups.

Such requests required individual consideration as to the principle of free access to ideas and the setting of a precedent whereby books could be forced off the open shelves resulting in a form of censorship.

The Library Commission recommended to the City Council that the "Library Bill of Rights" as adopted by the American Library Association be adopted as the policy of the City of San José.

PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this policy to establish the guidelines to govern the services of the Library relative to the selection and placement of books and other Library materials in the Libraries.

POLICY

It is the policy of the City Council that the Libraries of the City of San José follow the "Library Bill of Rights" as adopted and amended June 27, 1967, by the American Library Association, as follows:

1. As a responsibility of library service, books and other library materials selected should be chosen for values of interest, information and enlightenment of all the people of the community. In no case should library materials be excluded because of the race or nationality or the social, political, or religious views of the authors.
2. Libraries should provide books and other materials presenting all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our times; no library materials should be proscribed or removed from libraries because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
3. Censorship should be challenged by libraries in the maintenance of their responsibility to provide public information and enlightenment.
4. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
5. The rights of an individual to the use of a library should not be denied or abridged because of his age, race, religion, national origins or social or political views.
6. As an institution of education for democratic living, the library should welcome the use of its meeting rooms for socially useful and cultural activities and discussion of current public questions. Such meeting places should be available on equal terms to all groups in the community regardless of the beliefs and affiliations of their members, provided that the meetings be open to the public.

