

**From:** Ann Kling <[director@clearviewlibrary.org](mailto:director@clearviewlibrary.org)>

**Date:** January 13, 2019 at 6:56:22 PM MST

**Subject: Email from MassResistance's Arthur Schaper**

All –

I wanted to take a moment to respond to the wildly inaccurate allegations that were included in the email you received from MassResistance's Arthur Schaper yesterday.

- **First, the library was in fact open and available to everyone before, during and after the event.** The only area of the library that required a ticket was the meeting room, and it reopened immediately following the event. Protesters on both sides of the issue entered and exited the library regularly, with some even checking out materials while they were there.
- **Second, protesters were allowed to – and did – distribute flyers outside the library during the event.** Signs were not allowed inside the library, and patrons were not allowed to distribute flyers inside the library itself – both would violate our policy against disruptive activities inside the library. The only instance of someone being asked not to distribute a flyer was a protester who was stopping traffic as it entered the library parking lot to converse and distribute a flyer. A police officer politely asked her to allow patrons to park before distributing the flyer so that traffic trying to enter the parking lot did not back up into the street.
- **Third, the protesters chose where they wanted to protest.** We had intended to ask protesters not to protest within 30 feet of our front door so as not to inhibit the ability of patrons to enter and exit the library. However, before we could have that conversation, the protesters chose a position along the sidewalk and street that gave them greater visibility to people entering the parking lot and driving along Third Street. They protested where they chose to protest.
- **Fourth, the event participants were local residents.** As ironic as it is that someone from California would complain about outsiders involving themselves in this issue, I can assure you that the overwhelming majority – if not all – of the participants in the event were in fact library district residents. Our ticketing system ensured that we controlled who received the tickets, and our obligation as a library is to meet the needs of our district residents.

Finally, I would strongly encourage you to consider the source of these baseless and irresponsible complaints. Mr. Schaper's organization has been identified as an anti-LGBT hate group, a similar designation given to such groups as the Westboro Baptist Church. They have been condemned by both Democrats and Republicans for their outlandish and false claims about LGBT persons.

Mr. Schaper may choose to attempt to score cheap political points by attacking our police officers, but let me be clear: We should acknowledge and appreciate the professionalism of the Windsor Police Department officials. They respected the rights of all of the protesters and kept a calm presence that helped keep the protest civil. They should be commended, not criticized. I am

also proud of how the protesters on both sides of the issue behaved yesterday. They were vocal and stood up for their beliefs, but they were also respectful and kind. They were a credit to our community.

I know many of you did not support the event, but our obligation is to meet the needs of our entire community. We offer hundreds of events each year, ranging from Santa's Workshop to Spanish Bingo to student Chess Club. We don't expect everyone to be interested in every event, but rather that the programming in total meets the needs of our entire community.

I am available if you have any questions about the event.

Respectfully,

Ann Kling

Director, Clearview Library District