



ANDERSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

TERRY FRANK
COUNTY MAYOR



March 22, 2023

Mr. Russell Barker
101 S. Main Street
Suite 400
Sheriff, Anderson County
Clinton, TN 37716

RE: Materials in the Library

Dear Sheriff Barker,

During the citizen comment period of the Anderson County Board of Commissioner's February 21, 2023 meeting, a citizen acting as a whistleblower made notice to the legislative body that taxpayers were funding what she alleged were some "pornographic" selections that could be accessed by children in our public libraries. She reported that one of the books encouraged children to visit pornographic websites, taught children how to send "naughty masterpieces around the world," and how to protect predators by editing the photos. She shared a copy of images from "Let's Talk About It," by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan. (Citizen acting as whistleblower appears on County Commission video on ACTV Channel 95, begin at 57 minutes https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ye5yK_30Bwc)

Regarding the material presented to commission, some of these materials discussed at the county commission meeting have been delivered to the District Attorney General's Office.

While the Anderson County library system has a procedure for how to address questionable content, there is no clear guidance regarding how to proceed if one perceives a violation of obscenity statutes has occurred.

While we are not attorneys, we do understand that there are laws based on the concept of variable obscenity—that is, material may not be obscene when viewed by adults, but may be when viewed by children. We understand that there are laws to do no harm to minors in this area of law in Tennessee.

We are attaching a packet of other questionable materials that were provided to County Commissioner Anthony Allen. He made these available to the Office of the County Mayor, and also to the full board of County Commission. Not all address possible obscenity violations.

Regarding the materials that have been brought to light by the citizen(s), we are requesting the Sheriff's Department please investigate the materials for obscenity violations.

Sincerely,


Commissioner Anthony Allen


Commissioner Tim Isbel


Commissioner Denise Palmer


Commissioner Shain Vowell


County Mayor Terry Frank