

From: Douglas Haubert <Douglas.Haubert@longbeach.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 4:31 PM

To: Council District 1 <District1@longbeach.gov>; Council District 2 <District2@longbeach.gov>; Council District 3 <District3@longbeach.gov>; Council District 4 <District4@longbeach.gov>; Council District 5 <District5@longbeach.gov>; Council District 6 <District6@longbeach.gov>; Council District 7 <District7@longbeach.gov>; Council District 8 <District8@longbeach.gov>; Council District 9 <District9@longbeach.gov>; Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>

Cc: CityAttorney <CityAttorney@longbeach.gov>; City Auditor's Office <Auditor@longbeach.gov>

Subject: Re: Agenda item re enforcement of library rules

Sorry, I am at a meeting in LA and accidentally hit “send” too early. Here is the complete email...

I was asked to weigh in on the agenda item related to Enforcement of Library rules.

First, there really is a problem at some libraries. This problem is created by very few users.

Unfortunately, in these rare and isolated cases, one user will prevent others from using and enjoying our public libraries. This is not right.

Second, having rules in place and making it clear that rules will be enforced, alone, will help the current situation. In other words, if unruly users know that they might get in trouble, it will result in better behavior at libraries. So it is possible the rules will not even need to be enforced.

Finally, every misdemeanor case in Long Beach is vetted by my office before it is filed in court. We review each case and look at the circumstances. We will not file cases if the behavior is not serious enough to warrant a criminal case. Also, we offer diversion to individuals who are in need of services. This ordinance will not be used to prosecute people experiencing homelessness or others without good cause.

For the reasons above, I urge you to support the city attorney’s proposed ordinance. Our libraries belong to everyone, and unless we have basic rules that protect all users (and our librarians), they cannot be enjoyed by everyone.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Doug Haubert
LB City Prosecutor