

Edith Craig

From: Kathleen Schulkins [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 6:07 AM
To: Board
Subject: Comment to be read at the Jan 22 board meeting

Hello,

My name is Kathleen Van Dyke and I have two young children who have been continuously threatened and discriminated against at the St. Charles Public Library for having a medical exemption to face coverings. We have been polite, calm, yet firm, that our medical exemption should allow us equal access to the public library. Each time, Edith has threatened us with police force as well as the fear of being banned from the library indefinitely. We are looking to hear from the board tonight, Jan 22. Is this what you stand for? Homeschooling families being denied equal access to the (necessary) tangible experience of browsing and selecting literature for educational and enjoyment purposes? Do the board members of our library genuinely believe stealing a child's love for reading and socializations with literature are in any way okay for the future generations? As if enough hasn't been taken from these innocent children already, please help us understand the theft you are enforcing on these children.

In the meantime, I have included a letter that confirms our family's legal rights to claim our medical exemption in a public place during operating hours. Please read this through for the board members and the viewing public attending this virtual meeting. Thank you for your time.

NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE AND DISCRIMINATION

Re: NON-COMPLIANCE WITH COVID-19 REGULATIONS FROM THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (77 Ill. Admin. Code 690.50); and THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990 (Title 42, 126 U.S. CODE): and NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY IN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES (28 CFR Part 35); and NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY BY PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS AND IN COMMERCIAL FACILITIES (28 CFR Part 36): and DEPRIVATION OF RIGHTS UNDER COLOR OF LAW (18 U.S. CODE § 242)

On January 27, 2020, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared that COVID-19, a respiratory illness spread by close contact through respiratory droplets, presents a public health emergency, and the World Health Organization characterized the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic on March 11, 2020.

Pursuant to the Department of Public Health Act, 20 ILCS 2305, the Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law, 20 ILCS 2310, and the Communicable Disease Code, 77 Ill. Admin. Code 690, the Department of Public Health adopted emergency regulations, 77 Ill. Admin. Code 690.50, on August 7, 2020, and clearly designates a medical exemption to any requirement to wear face covering as follows:

- Any business, service, facility or organization open to the public or employees shall require employees, customers, and other individuals on the premises who are over age two and able to medically tolerate a face covering to cover their nose and mouth with a face covering when on premises and unable to maintain at least a six-foot social distance. (IDPH Rule §690.50(c)(2))

Myself and my children have a medical condition where I cannot wear a face covering or other PPE that covers my mouth and nose. This condition is recognized under the Americans With Disabilities

Act of 1990. As a part of a protected class under this act, I have no legal obligation to disclose any details of my medical condition.

Under Title 42, chapter 126 USC, known as the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), discrimination and segregation on the basis of a protected medical condition is strictly prohibited under federal law.

Laws and Regulations Applicable to Law Enforcement and Government Agents

- No qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity. (28 CFR §35.130)
- Whoever, under color of any law, statute, ordinance, regulation, or custom, willfully subjects any person in any State, Territory, Commonwealth, Possession, or District to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States [...] shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than one year, or both (18 USC §242)

Laws and Regulations Applicable to All Places of Public Accommodation

- No individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any private entity who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation. (28 CFR §36.201)
- **Denial of participation.** A public accommodation shall not subject an individual or class of individuals on the basis of a disability or disabilities of such individual or class, directly, or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements, to a denial of the opportunity of the individual or class to participate in or benefit from the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of a place of public accommodation. (28 CFR §36.202(a))
- **Participation in unequal benefit.** A public accommodation shall not afford an individual or class of individuals, on the basis of a disability or disabilities of such individual or class, directly, or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements, with the opportunity to participate in or benefit from a good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or accommodation that is not equal to that afforded to other individuals. (28 CFR §36.202(b))
- **Separate benefit.** A public accommodation shall not provide an individual or class of individuals, on the basis of a disability or disabilities of such individual or class, directly, or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements with a good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or accommodation that is different or separate from that provided to other individuals, unless such action is necessary to provide the individual or class of individuals with a good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or accommodation, or other opportunity that is as effective as that provided to others. (28 CFR §36.202(c))
- In determining whether an individual poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others, a public accommodation must make an individualized assessment, based on reasonable judgment that relies on current medical knowledge or on the best available objective evidence, to ascertain: The nature, duration, and severity of the risk; the probability that the potential injury will actually occur; and whether reasonable modifications of policies, practices, or procedures or the provision of auxiliary aids or services will mitigate the risk. (28 CFR §36.208(b))
- A public accommodation may impose legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for safe operation. Safety requirements must be based on actual risks and not on mere speculation, stereotypes, or generalizations about individuals with disabilities. (28 CFR § 36.301 (b))

Given IDPH Rule §690.50(c)(2) provides for a medical exemption, I am exhibiting no symptoms of COVID-19, and I have no reason to believe that I am infected or transmitting COVID-19, the real risk I pose to the health or safety is negligible and is significantly less than the actual harm caused to me by wearing a face covering and facing real discrimination.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED, discrimination and segregation on the basis of a protected medical condition is strictly prohibited and you are in violation of federal law and regulation.

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

Re: NON-COMPLIANCE WITH COVID-19 REGULATIONS FROM THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (77 Ill. Admin. Code 690.50); and THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990 (Title 42, chapter 126 USC); and NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF

**DISABILITY IN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES (28 CFR Part 35); and
NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY BY PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS AND IN
COMMERCIAL FACILITIES (28 CFR Part 36): and DEPRIVATION OF RIGHTS UNDER COLOR
OF LAW (18 U.S. CODE § 242)**

Date: January 21, 2022
Name: Kathleen Van Dyke
Address: [REDACTED]
Saint Charles, IL. [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Edith Craig

From: Kathleen Schulkins [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 7:52 AM
To: Board
Subject: Comment for Jan 22 continued

In continuation from my previous email submission, I suggested this option to Edith as well:

If the intention to deprive God's children of oxygen remains, perhaps the Library would be willing to allow unmasked patrons a separate time to use the Library? Two options a week with 2-3 hours for family flexibility. That would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Kathleen Van Dyke
[REDACTED]

Saint Charles, IL [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Edith Craig

From: Alyse Daccardo [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 10:21 AM
To: Board
Subject: Public comments

My name is Alyse. I've been a resident of St. Charles for 10 years. My family immigrated here from Italy 100 years ago and took root in Chicago.. We moved to the suburbs when I was a kid, and have always loved the family feel of St. Charles. I'm hoping this experience helps you to see how wrongly your staff is treating it's residents.

On a normal day at the library with my 5 children, I was approached by not one, not two, but three staff members, including your security guard. Did I damage books? No. Did I get belligerent with another patron? No. My crime, and I say that loosely, was my 7 year old twins, with documented medical conditions, had faceshields on. Even after offering to show their doctors note, I was told to leave if they could not wear a mask. I should also add that myself and my 5 year old had masks on. THIS Is discrimination. You cannot tell me that I have to use your drive up service. That is not a reasonable accommodation. What you're doing is disgusting and illegal. Not only did I leave in tears but I shared my experience. And would you believe there's a whole community of us who have experienced the same harassment. Imagine that. Your policies are flawed and I shared that view with your library director, Edith. She was less than helpful. I asked for some flexibility with the shields. We keep our distance. I was willing to wear a mask and she refused. So the next time we came, we didn't wear masks. And we'll continue to not wear masks. I urge you to rethink your policies. The mask mandate is not a law. And you banning me for 90 days for not wearing a mask is crazy.

It also goes against your library bill of rights.. I believe it says,

"A person's right to use the library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views."

I will tell anyone who will listen what you're doing and what you did. I will reach out to every news station, radio show and podcast.. To deny 5 children the use of the library that MY taxes pay for is terrible and you should all be ashamed.

Alyse

Edith Craig

From: Mira Franco [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:25 PM
To: Board
Subject: Public Comment and Link to the Meeting

Hello,

I would like to receive a link to attend the meeting and please take note of my public comment provided below.

I'm horrified that there would be threats of physical violence made to library staff. I'm also horrified that the library would ban tax payers from using their public facilities for not wearing a mask. Unfortunately, the law does not afford you the ability to make such a maneuver.

You are under no lawful authority to require your employees or your patrons to wear a mask.

There is no statutory law that requires you, your employees or your patrons to wear a mask.

These are GUIDELINES of the State Dept of Health and local health boards. Any other ORDER is unlawful and must be challenged.

Preventing entry to your establishment of someone not wearing a mask violates these laws:

- o US Constitution (1st and 4th Amendments)
-) Federal Civil Rights Law (Title 11, Section 2000)

If you refuse entry to your establishment, which is open to the public, you are also restricting the free movement of an individual and engaging in false imprisonment.

Declaring this as your "library policy" does not absolve you from your violation of the law.

I certainly hope the library decides to open its doors and not discriminate against those unable to wear masks. And I hope swift legal action is brought upon you should you choose otherwise.

Best,
Mira Franco

Edith Craig

From: Max Gordon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 7:35 PM
To: Board
Subject: Attend the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Thank you and forward the link for tomorrow's meeting. Please read aloud.

My comments to be read:

First there was Panic. Then there was Power. Now the Wheels are Coming Off. It's Time to Build.

The Saint Charles Library, along with all businesses and public institutions, can no longer be the tip of Governor Pritzker's failed attempt to use masks to mitigate Sars Cov2. I congratulate him personally, like a mad scientist intent on making his failed experiment work, he extended his EO for six months to stop a gain-of-function, mutating virus. The results are in. Masks do not mitigate Sars Cov2. Forty-six other states figured this out long ago. Clearly the Governor and the Party has no exit strategy and man do they wish for one.

This brings me to the Saint Charles Public Library forced to follow this failed strategy. You, like me, fell for the lockdowns then the masking and now for sure vaccinate to stop, let me remind you, a man-made, mutating virus humanity has never before experienced. You and your staff have been working full time for a Governor who has no off ramp and a Party committed to use Sars Cov2, doubling down and turning on its citizens because that is all that is left. He has put your staff into the position of being unpaid mask police with no law broken or violation to be charged. Mask efficacy is a mirage to create an effect of compliance when it was sold as a way to save lives. Sars Cov2 is real. I contracted it and forgot to get sick but I did gain top of chart antibodies for my antibody test, which, according to 700K data points in Israel, means 13-27 times better than the vaccinated. Oh yes, antibodies and natural immunity are dismissed by the medical community that has been MIA with any pre-hospitalization protocol and this is with 300 medical schools including Harvard and Mayo. Zero. Nada. So, when you believe I have gone out on limb or lost my mind, call your doctor, and ask what to do for the Sars Cov2 you just tested positive for. Answer: "Isolate and call us if you get worse. Bye now."

Summary: Proof positive after 6 months in Illinois, masks do not mitigate a gain-of-function, mutating virus on a humanity that has no natural antibodies. Nor do the masks worn, fabric or paper, prevent infections and were never touted by the medical community to do that. It did, however, feel like I was doing something.

I am simply tired of playing the game, masking to please you and the Party's drumbeat for a 6-month failed policy of forced masking when it has no effect on the transmission and infection rates of Sars Cov2.

Maintain your independence and freedom of choice and remove the no mask policy. Make it, mask optional until, suddenly one day, Governor Pritzker declares the all clear.

MJ Gordon
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Saint Charles, IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Meghan Dean [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 7:55 PM
To: Board
Subject: Support of the mask mandate

I am writing to let you know I am in full support of the mask mandate at the library and following the state wide rules right now. Especially right now, with Omicron cases being so high. Public health rules are important and I hope you do not bend to the will of this very loud MINORITY of voices who bully our school boards and now our public library.

I am so sorry you have had to experience this bullying and I hope the library is able to open again safely!

Sincerely,

Meghan Dean
St Charles resident and library patron

--

Sent from my iPhone

Edith Craig

From: gin seek [REDACTED]
Int: Friday, January 21, 2022 8:23 PM
To: Board
Subject: In support of mask requirements

Thank you for calling a meeting Saturday 1/22/22 in a swift response to this week's anti-mask protest and subsequent challenges. As a St. Charles patron I appreciate and support the library staff and want them to know they are valued and respected. I also value your service as board members representing the community.

It is my hope that the library will not succumb to the pressure of those who take an anti-mask stance. I support enforcement of the mandate for the safety of library guests and library employees.

I have been berated and verbally abused in my workplace for enforcing masks so I recognize the fear and anxiety that it creates for staff, and hope that the board and the library administration will do all that they can to help them feel safe and secure while balancing service to patrons.

Respectfully,
Ginny Sieck

Edith Craig

From: Courtney [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:03 PM
To: Board
Subject: Special Meeting Note

To SCL Council,

Thank you for hosting this meeting.

For 20 years I have frequented the library. Even more so in the last 14 years with my family. The library has been a second home to us, especially as a home school family.

Recently though, it has not been that welcoming comfortable place. We have been unwelcomed coming into the building. Librarians are masked, staring at their computers. Events have been cancelled because of "health" risks even with all the new space. My children no longer feel comfortable speaking with the librarians... Which is heartbreaking as they so enjoyed talking over books and going to find them together. And recently, the librarians calling the police on patrons.

The mask mandate is unlawful and harmful in so many ways. It's time to put the masks away. After two years, I think we can all come to the conclusion masks and mandates are more harm than helpful.

Thank you again for your time.

Warmly,

Courtney Fredrickson
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Christian Pilapil [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:04 PM
To: Board
Subject: Jan22 meeting link

Board,
I would like the link to join the meeting please.

Comment to be read on record below:

After recently moving to St. Charles, my family hoped to utilize our local library as a resource for our children. These mask mandate incidents and the decision to close the library is concerning, especially when their decisions obstruct an individual's/family's medical, religious, or otherwise personal exemptions and reasons with a different "view".

They are clearly an overreaction from people unqualified to address the public in a civil manner, lacking the tools and training for public de-escalation, and an overreach of authority by limiting taxpayer funded resources and facilities from those that rightfully should be available.

I would appreciate a clarification from the Board defending these actions, particularly when they contradict their own Mission Statement and Bill of Rights. These actions by the Director Craig and library staff to deny or abridge access and to intimidate (even with the threat of police presence and removal) does not support the growth nor provides the spirit of community, particularly to those with different views.

I hope this can be publicly addressed and corrected soon.

Humble citizen,
Mr. Christian Pilápil

Edith Craig

From: Susan Schwerdtfeger [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:36 PM
To: Board
Subject: Meeting tomorrow

I request that my personal information not be released. I am too old to be dealing with harassment.

I believe the St. Charles Public Library has gone the extra mile in accommodating the library patrons during this pandemic. I speak for myself in saying that without the library and their dedicated staff it would have been much more difficult to endure the last two years. I know everyone is tired of wearing masks, but please remember there are many people with compromised immune issues. I don't think anyone would like to feel responsible knowing that their actions might harm someone else. Yes, most of us have been vaccinated and probably have our boosters. Right now I have a friend in the hospital seriously ill with covid and he had all three shots. When comparing the inconvenience of wearing a mask and the value of someone's life, which is more important?

Susan Schwerdtfeger
[REDACTED]

St. Charles, IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Edith Craig

From: Christina Rumbley [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 9:57 PM
To: Board
Subject: Board Meeting

Dear St Charles Library Board Members,

As an active resident and mother, I have been extremely concerned by the actions of the St Charles Librarians recently. Our library has been closed for a year due to renovations, paid by our tax dollars. Since reopening, we have visited a few times. My children and I were followed and reprimanded by a security guard, for not having our masks up enough. The librarians were cold and unwelcoming, each time we visited. The library should be a place that everyone feels welcome, especially children, without discrimination. I pray that the librarians, (who are employed by our tax dollars), will regain their passion for encouraging a love of reading and learning, instead of discriminating based on compliance to "mandates" (not laws), questionable science, and a complete disregard for individual choice.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Christina Rumbley
[REDACTED] St. Charles
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Allison Lanthrum [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 10:57 PM
To: Board
Subject: Public Comment: Supporting Safety & Closure

Dear Library Board Members,

Thank you for your service, and I support the library's interior closure as long as it is necessary for the safety of library staff.

Name: Allison Lanthrum

Address: [REDACTED] St. Charles, IL [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Public Comment: Hi. I'm a St. Charles resident and library frequent flier. Based on this experience, I'd like to share some good news: No-one is forcing anyone to come to the Library and wear a mask. But I hope that you do come to the library, because their resources and staff are fantastic. And if you come to the Library right now, you have to wear a mask to try to protect other patrons and that fantastic staff. If you don't want to wear a mask or can't, you still deserve and have a right to use our jewel of a library- in fact, they have thoughtfully created accommodations for you and have been offering them throughout the pandemic. Reach out to them with your needs and wants, and they'll work their library magic! In contrast, threatening library staff about policies out of their control, deliberately violating and disrespecting library spaces, putting other patrons and staff at risk of harm, and creating and sharing false information is not acceptable and cannot be tolerated. Full stop. Thank you, take care, and good luck to us all.

Edith Craig

From: Sam Parker [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 5:35 AM
To: Edith Craig
Subject: Re: Mask policies

Yes I would like my comment read into the meeting notes. Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 21, 2022, at 11:13 PM, Edith Craig <ecraig@scpld.org> wrote:

>

> Hi Sam,

> Thank you for your support. Would you like to submit your email below as part of the public comment section? All that would be read is your name and comment. The link for the meeting, tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. is below.

> Thank you for considering,

> Edith

>

>

> Please join using this link:

> <https://v.ringcentral.com/join/599697139?pw=dac9d116ec0c8605965c16312b5cb501>

> Meeting ID: 599697139

> Password: kfrPnEdKbJ

> One tap to join audio only from a smartphone:

> +16504191505,,599697139#,,5377633525# United States Or dial:

> +1 (650) 4191505 United States

> Access Code / Meeting ID: 599697139 Dial-in password: 5377633525

>

> Here is the link for the Board meeting agenda and rules for

> participation:

> https://www.scpld.org/sites/default/files/board_of_trustees_january_22

> _2022.pdf

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Samuel Parker [REDACTED]

> Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:46 PM

> To: Board <board@scpld.org>

> Subject: Mask policies

>

> It is unfortunate staff members at the library are being harassed for doing what is right for our community. I fully support the Saint Charles Public library and its decision to adhere to the current mask mandate. Please do not lower our community standards to the lowest vocal denominator.

>

> Sam Parker, [REDACTED] Saint Charles Illinois

>

> Sent from my iPad

Edith Craig

From: Terri Hoehne [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 6:31 AM
To: Board
Subject: mask controversy

Based on the article in the Chronicle, I strongly support the Library.

There are options for those who choose to not wear masks, or cannot wear masks. They can participate in many other ways.

Parents and individuals need to consider the greater good – who will be most harmed if they / their children do not wear masks? Possibly themselves, more likely others. We need to realize that we are not only responsible for our individual selves, but all those around us. It isn't about "freedom" – it is about responsibility.

Signed –

T. H.

A Batavia resident who supports my local library, and all the libraries in the Fox Valley

Edith Craig

From: Jenni Lynn [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 6:35 AM
To: Board
Subject: I support mask mandates :)

I just want to say I'm so disappointed anyone here in stc would be threatening the library of mask mandates!! I read the article in Patch just now and I'm not one to comment or contact typically over articles I read but I'm so embarrassed anyone would act this way in my town that I just had to say something lol. For what its worth, I totally support these mandates, I love the library, and anyone who messes with you messes with me! I also commented this in patch:

"I'm so ashamed anyone from my home town would be threatening our library! Like seriously people!? Let's stop attacking our neighbors, our fellow Illinoisans, and fellow Americans over such petty nonsense. Can't we all just agree to disagree, compromise, and coexist like civil human beings??? And P.S. saying and doing angry or harmful things is not how you get what you want in life. Its like toddlers throwing tantrums when they don't get their way..."

I can't make the virtual meeting but please reference my words if it will do anything on your behalf. No need to reply to this email necessarily. Thanks and take care :)

Edith Craig

From: Gloria Klimek [REDACTED]
Int: Saturday, January 22, 2022 6:42 AM
To: Board
Subject: Library compliance with mask mandate

I strongly support the mask mandate and the library's compliance. This is a difficult time for all of us and for those of us at high risk because of age and/or medical issues, even fully if vaccinated, we can only use public facilities if everyone is in compliance with the state's mask mandate. This dangerous pandemic will be over sooner if we all do our part.

Gloria Klimek
[REDACTED]

St. Charles, IL [REDACTED]

Sent from Mail for Windows

Edith Craig

From: Dean Raschke [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 6:49 AM
To: Board; Jill Raschke [REDACTED]
Subject: Library is Wrong

My name is in my signature. We live at [REDACTED] in St Charles. My wife and I are appalled by what the library did. If the library wants to be very strict in rule adherence they should be much better trained to understand exemptions to medical needs of all visitors to this public place, especially young children with a medical exemption.

True to form, once pressed on how they are acting the library administration seamlessly jumps in to the role of victim. You know, people are threatening us and we are just trying to do what's best for everyone.

I love the narrative “just trying to do what’s best for everyone”. Sounds good. In this situation the reality is the library was much closer to “Harmed children and a family because the library did not understand medical exemptions”.

Before you can mandate the rules like little cops you should know the rules. After all, children depend on you adults to act like it!

Dean Raschke - CEO
Roadside Protect, Inc.

tasca, IL

Edith Craig

From: Cynthia Funegard [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 7:28 AM
To: Board
Subject: I would like to attend your virtual meeting however I am elderly and on accustomed to zoom -like meetings and so will use this platform instead. Thank you for the invitation to write.

Dear St Charles Illinois Public Library Board of Directors,

We learned of threats to our library on the news yesterday. The news reported that these threats were via phone calls and email.

As patrons of decades, we were greatly disheartened. We have had frequent interactions with numerous library staff over the past 22 years, or more. Every staff member has been warm and welcoming and gone the extra mile to help us with our many requests. Our family utilizes the library for almost every available resource, including museum passes and near- daily book requests. To say that the library has been hospitable and accommodating, educational and supportive would be a gross understatement.

Our family's particular use has been, perhaps, extraordinary, considering the volume of materials that we request, including purchase requests and research and many reference questions. We have always been impressed and awed at the variety of services. The staff bends over backwards to be of the greatest service possible at all times.

Considering the stress of coronavirus restrictions and the massive undertaking of the recent remodeling and move of materials back and forth to our enhanced library campus, one might expect some compromise in the delivery of services. This has not been our experience at all. The speed of turnaround and the grace with which these offerings are rendered has remained intact despite unprecedented challenges.

It is heartbreaking and devastating to contemplate that our beloved and cherished library staff has received pushback of any kind, much less any form of threat via email or voicemail. What the library staff deserves is thanks and credit in their brave efforts to serve, and to keep our community safe in adhering to our Governor's mandate. (One might wonder how many national deaths, and even local deaths and severe illness, it would take to impress upon some citizens the severity of this highly transmittable illness). Simple masks are not a political statement, and at this time are really not even a choice in certain public venues. They are simply a life-saving, easily accessible, inexpensive, readily available and necessary, temporary, preventative measure- right up there with hand washing and social distancing of other types. The efficacy of mask wearing in the prevention of the spread of coronavirus has been well demonstrated scientifically, and is implemented by many institutions in order to save lives.

While we as Americans are free to protest and together and to voice our opinions, it must never be in threats of any type. Our public servants are already spread thin by many other threats, and to add to this burden is unreasonable and unfair. Coming into a public facility without a mask, knowing full well what the current mandate is, seems like a temper tantrum. It does not represent choice to our children, but shows disrespect and lack of compliance to reasonable and even legal mandates, even if temporary. There are rules in order to protect our freedoms everywhere and it is particularly important to set an example since children need to be compliant in order to stay safe at school and in other settings where people gather.

It is our hope that during this evening's meeting that the board will remain firm in enforcing safety measures until the Governor has ruled differently. We know that you will reassess at that time, and we hope that you will keep necessary protective measures in place so that the majority of compliant patrons can continue to enjoy the library. We know that you have extensive services online for people in their homes as well. It is always better to err in favor of safety in these crucial times. This has been unprecedented and has been difficult upon businesses and institutions to understand what to do and to flex with new information.

But at no point should any institution be bullied into acquiescing and accommodating those who would be threatening. It is not the library's intolerance, but the intolerance of a few who would jeopardize the health and safety of the majority in order to assert what they think are their rights under the constitution. It causes trouble and discord and disharmony, and destroys the peace and safety of the majority of patrons who are happy to simply throw on a mask for a few minutes to help keep the vulnerable safe. We understand that this is complicated and complex, but it really does seem like a no-brainer. We hope that our library will not yield to these pressures, but will stand firm and that the community and any safety resources that exist will rally behind you until this health crisis passes.

Thank you for all of your time and extraordinary help and service always.

Sincerely,

The Funegard Family

St. Charles, Illinois

Edith Craig

From: Christine Balthis [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 7:38 AM
To: Board
Subject: Comments for 5pm meeting

Hello! My name is Christine. I live at [REDACTED] St. Charles.

I just want to say that we are overall just very tired of all this division when it comes to masks. In all honesty, I believe that we know deep down that they don't work, but it is a way to make certain people feel better. As a mom, going to the library without a mask was a way to make a calm statement that we would like to be able to go to the public library with our children and choose to be maskless. It was a calm event, aside from one library staff member stating that we were "making a scene in front of our children," and that "the police have been called, do you really want to be escorted out with your children? Do you want people to see that?" I am just appalled at how quickly the staff called the police on moms and young children. I think that closing the library was a response out of embarrassment you and fear, because the police did arrive and say that the "mask mandate" is not a law, so they cannot "charge" us with anything for not wearing a mask. This whole situation is just ridiculous. Let's focus on real health and safety matters. Please rethink your strategy about masks and try to remember that the survival rate for covid is 99 %.

Christine

Edith Craig

From: Ryan Tippins [REDACTED]
ent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 7:44 AM
To: Board
Subject: Special Meeting Link/ Media Question

Hello, my name is Ryan Tippins and I'm an independent Journalist from Clinton, South Carolina. I would like to attend your special meeting today at 5 o'clock to report on the situation for an independent media outlet. I was asked to email the library for a link. Also, I have a question that I would like to be asked in the meeting as well. The question is "How long will St. Charles Public Library continue to segregate those who are unvaccinated, and has the board finally learned anything about the public's perseverance to live freely?"

Edith Craig

From: Jennifer Maughan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 7:48 AM
To: Board
Subject: Comment to be read

Please remove the mask mandate. This is not a law and is therefore not enforceable. The vaccine is available for all that chose it. There are those that chose not to. The masks do not work. I can show you plenty of videos of people blowing smoke into a mask and out of a mask. We the tax payers make the decisions. We decided to spend 18 million for a beautiful facility with of room to social distance. Masking just gives a placebo effect giving people the confidence to ignore distance, they don't work. children are proven to be at little to no risk. You are effecting them emotionally and changing a generation to being fearful. As you may or may not know there is much to be said on the accuracy of all this. Hard to believe the science when all are to mask up to protect those that have the shot? Listen to that logic! You got the shot so you would not get infected. Why does the mask matter then? I comes down to freedom of choice. If you want protection get a shot. If you don't that's your choice. If you want to wear a mask do so but don't force others to. Again get the shot to protect yourself and wear a mask if you want to. If you don't want one or the other that's your choice. We have been to multiple states in the last two years where they don't have such policies. Illinois and New York and California... All have these rules no one else does. It doesn't alter the spread of the virus. Let's get over this stupid stuff now and let the kids be kids. And if we're afraid to serve the public of Saint Charles maybe we should hire different staff to run the library.

Jennifer

Edith Craig

From: Bob Jungwirth [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 8:12 AM
To: Board
Subject: Saturday Meeting

As someone who has used the St. Charles Public Library for over 30 years I was saddened to hear of the recent closing. The Library District cannot give in to a very vocal, underinformed minority. The group that entered the library this week with the sole purpose of intimidating librarians is a great example of the mentality of people who are trying to subvert science. It is my hope that the St. Charles Police cooperate with the library to provide security so that the librarians can do their jobs without being harassed.

Anti-vax and anti-mask groups will continue their intimidation tactics despite the scientific facts that refute their beliefs. I hope that the library continues to stand its ground and protect the workers that provide such a valuable service to our community. Libraries are important beacons of knowledge. Those that do not respect the mandates obviously do not have the same views of the library. Please know that the community stands behind the library employees and values their contributions.

Thank you,

Robert Jungwirth
[REDACTED]

St. Charles, IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from Mail for Windows

Edith Craig

From: Scott Field [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 8:19 AM
To: Board
Subject: About the closing of the library due to threats...

My wife and I are recent arrivals in St. Charles (4 yrs).

We LOVE the St. Charles Public Library and commend the staff and board on managing through the pandemic as well as the wonderful renovation of the physical library facility. Bravo!

I saw the news item about closing the library and want to make three observations:

1. The library is on the edge of a significant public relations crisis.

This situation can potentially create real damage to your image and level of support in the community. The statewide mask mandate has put you in the role of maintaining compliance. The normally friendly and helpful staff must now also function as the "library police" on behalf of the Illinois executive order. The news item that indicates you are working with the St. Charles police, while understandable, only underscores the sense that the solution being sought is how to restrict the "bad actors" sending threatening emails to the exclusion of addressing why in the world anybody would threaten a library in the first place.

2. The citizens of St. Charles are not your enemies.

Hunkering down in some sort of defensive mode would be, in my opinion, a mistake. The library is a community asset, not a fortress. My observation is that the citizens of St. Charles have many reasons for questioning the mask mandate currently in place, including: a) the mask mandate in Illinois has not provided any demonstrably better outcomes in terms of covid morbidity or positivity rates than in states without the mandate, b) the mask mandate is largely ignored in many public and private establishments in St. Charles and throughout Illinois...with no consequences to the patrons of those public and private establishments (the exception being Chicago and Cook County), and c) this leaves many to conclude the wearing of a mask as largely irrelevant -- sort of like a mandate for all to wear a purple hat on Thursdays or be denied admission to the library. This seems a poor choice as *the* defining issue on which the library Board is willing to sacrifice its good standing with the patrons of St. Charles.

3. The opportunity to partner with the community for a better future

I believe you have an opportunity to, yes, take prudent safety measures on behalf of staff and patrons with appropriate consultation involving law enforcement, but also to make some sort of public statement that you are in dialogue with public health officials and/or the office of the governor to advocate for an end to or modification of the mask mandate. I notice that the St. Charles Gov't Operations Committee decided it would not require vaccination verification for business patrons in St. Charles and the mayor of Naperville has called for an end to the mask mandate. Neither of these actions actually ended the Illinois mask mandate, but they do give a signal to the public that city officials are aware of the situation and not punitively enforcing a policy that many have concluded, in perspective and practice, is no longer worth enforcing.

A public statement and a "masking optional" or "no masks required in study rooms or meeting rooms of the library" might be an option.

You all know the dynamics of library administration better than I, but this is a critical moment when what you decide -- and how it is communicated to the staff and the public -- is especially important. The future relationship between the library and its community can be either strengthened or damaged by your actions now.

Scott Field



St. Charles

Edith Craig

From: David Thomas [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 8:21 AM
To: Edith Craig; Edith Craig
Subject: RE: Mask Policy

Hi Edith,

Thanks for confirming, you're free to read the email and say my full name, just redact my address and phone number.

Regards,
Dave

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

On Fri, Jan 21, 2022 at 11:29 PM, Edith Craig
<ecraig@scpld.org> wrote:

Hi David,

Thank you for your email. Based on your comments in the address portion, I'm assuming you want your email read but just your name said aloud? If so, we can redact this, yes. I won't add it to the comments unless I get your okay.

Have a good night,

Edith

From: David Thomas [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 6:22 PM
To: Board <board@scpld.org>
Subject: Mask Policy

I'm writing in support of your mask policy at the St Charles Library. I frequent the library with my two sons, one who isn't eligible yet for the vaccine. We feel you've created a safe place for us to utilize the facilities and would hesitate to return if this policy is lifted or loosened. We feel this needs to stay in place until health officials recommend differently, not a social media account of outsiders that feeds misinformation.

Changing this policy will also empower those making threats to staff to use the same approach at other libraries. We need to follow health officials guidance across all libraries and continue to keep this a safe place for your patrons.

Lastly, as a husband to one of your employees, I strongly suggest added security be put in place to also protect your staff. Your staff needs to feel as safe as your patrons.

You are all amazing and truly appreciated. Don't forget that the community has your back.

Dave Thomas

[REDACTED] (please don't publicly disclose our address or #)

STC

[REDACTED]

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Edith Craig

From: Kim Stover [REDACTED]
ent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 8:39 AM
To: Board
Subject: Library Mask Policy

Hi there,

I am a citizen whose taxes support the library and a patron. I 100% fully support the mask requirement at the library. Just as shirts and shoes are required in public places (other than the swimming pool) given the current pandemic we should mask up in this space to help keep workers and other patrons safe.

I find it disgusting what Awake Illinois did coming into our community with their vile hatred and staging their demonstration on social media for more crazies to make threats against the library.

Please stay strong, we support our library and want to keep our staff and patrons healthy.

Thank you for all you do for our community, Kim

Edith Craig

From: Jill Sullivan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 8:40 AM
To: Board
Subject: Support For Masks

Dear Library Board,

I am a frequent patron of the St. Charles Library as well as my children. I have appreciated the library following the CDC and state guidelines regarding masks. Our family has felt safe coming to the library in this time.

I am sad to learn there have been threats to the library staff. No one should have to be worried about going to work. The library staff have been cheerful and kind when we are there. The staff is very much appreciated by our family.

I hope the individual(s) making the threats are found. I am wondering if the threats are coming from actual residents here or outsiders (as we saw with the school board meetings). We need to come together as a community and care about each other.

I hope this is resolved soon and the library can reopen with masks.

Thank you
Jill Sullivan

Sent from Mail for Windows

Edith Craig

From: Grace Crowe [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 8:44 AM
To: Board
Subject: Board meeting

To whom it may concern.

This all started when a mom who was wearing a mask and her child who was wearing a shield had the cops called on them for the child not wearing a mask. This is appalling that your librarians lack the compassion to handle these situations accurately. While no kid should be forced to wear a mask which most states have realized, this family found an alternative to try and appease your fears and rules yet you lack the basic critical thinking skills to realize they pose no real harm to you. Instead you called the cops.

It is amazing that your library is still strictly enforcing this mask mandate after 2 yrs. There is a multitude of evidence that masks are ineffective and do not curb the spread of an airborne respiratory virus.

On top of that, the world health organization (WHO) has recommended against masking kids under 6 and only encouraging mask use in 6-10yr olds. The CDC guidelines have not been adopted by most states. Most states leave it up to local control and in those states, most are mask optional especially for kids.

Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming all do NOT require masks statewide. That is 29 states. Then there is Georgia which is mask free except for major cities like Atlanta, but that in Atlanta it is only kids over 10yrs old.

Nevada is statewide,, but for people over age 9.

Not only that, but most states or cities requiring a face covering following these guidelines have a clauses like these:(Like this one in Maryland-)

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2 (and under the Executive Order, are not required under the age of 5), anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance. Customers with disabilities who cannot wear a cloth face mask, plastic full- face shield, or other suitable face covering, shall be provided reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA Title II and III).

Customers cannot be asked invasive questions about a disability or asked to provide medical documentation or other proof of a disability. Employees or staff that cannot wear a face covering due to a disability may request reasonable accommodations in accordance with the employer's disability policies and procedures (ADA Title I). An employer's policies and procedures may require documentation to grant reasonable accommodations.

Even in our own state, many places recognize limitations that allow for face shields, or nothing and realize they have no right to ask or question a person's health status.

I urge your library to be more compassionate in your future interactions with the people that you serve.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Crowe

Edith Craig

From: Leah Beck [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 8:58 AM
To: Board
Subject: Support Mask Mandate

I support and will only patronize organizations that are following virus mitigation procedures recommended by health experts. Please keep mask mandate. I am concerned for the safety of all and appreciate that you have taken necessary measures to protect our community.

Leah Beck

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Edith Craig

From: Eric Thomas [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 9:03 AM
To: Board
Subject: Library closure

Hello,

I saw the news that the library had been closed and I wanted to email in support of the library staff. I recently moved to Saint Charles to be closer to my nephews and they are always at the library. The masking guidelines have been great because they already have to deal with threats of Covid because of being in class with other children so the fact that the library enforces masking has been a big thing for our family. Thank you for all you do and please keep enforcing the guidelines. I think it's important to not let the people who think it's okay to threaten get their way because they will see it as okay and continue to do it to others.

Thank you for listening,
Eric Thomas

Edith Craig

From: Gallagher and Associates [REDACTED]
ent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 9:05 AM
To: Board
Subject: Library Mask Policy

Board Members,

First, I would like to thank each of you for all of the work you have accomplished since the beginning of the pandemic to protect the health and safety of staff and patrons. I think it is important to note the library has worked really hard to constantly evaluate and adjust protocols to reflect constantly changing factors in the community at large.

Also important to this discussion is how hard the library has worked to develop and implement reasonable accommodations for those who might not be able to comply with those protocols. No one should expect the library to make policy exceptions for unreasonable demands.

This pandemic is at its very root a medical problem of a virus spread primarily via the respiratory system. In the case at hand, it is hard to ignore the unfortunate fact that a face shield does not filter any inhaled or exhaled air and offers absolutely no respiratory protection to either the wearer or to others around them thus increasing the risk of exposure and infection to both. Medical and scientific experts all agree face masks and vaccines are the two most important factors to mitigate the risk of infection.

There is a small percentage of the population unable to wear a face mask. For these library patrons, I strongly feel the library has done an outstanding and exemplary job of providing reasonable accommodation via multiple, alternative opportunities for these patrons to continue to gain reasonable access to library services and resources.

Please stay the course and keep up your excellent work!

Larry Gallagher
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Elizabeth Nemura [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 9:14 AM
To: Board
Subject: Comments for 1/22 Meeting
Attachments: 18-MORNING-subDEATHSKIDS-jumbo.png

Regarding the library's current mask policy and enforcement thereof -- including calling the police on children and their families, and shutting down the majority of library spaces, events and services to ALL taxpayers:

- ALL taxpayers should have equal access to the services they are funding. Library staff are violating multiple points on their own Bill of Rights, which calls for "cooperating with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression" and "A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of ... background, or views".

https://www.scpld.org/.../bill_of_rights_for_library_1.pdf

- IL is the only state in the Midwest who even has these mandates, and yet numbers demonstrate no notable benefit. Can the library demonstrate with valid data an actual, *significant* risk increase to either health or safety here? Why are unmasked faces considered a health and safety risk so significant we have to shut down this single library in IL, yet libraries across much of the country are fully operational with the very same risk? - Library staff are not responsible for and have absolutely no authority to enforce the mask mandate. This duty was assigned to the police and local health department. This is clearly stated in the executive order:

[https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/face-covering-vaccination-](https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/face-covering-vaccination-requirements.html?fbclid=IwAR1b2xTEVy8wBLX581JMwDabFHXvUIGtcdxysQfQP1wPDp8Of-wFi-SB4Kw#:~:text=On%20September%203%2C%202021%2C%20the,when%20in%20indoor%20public%20places)

[requirements.html?fbclid=IwAR1b2xTEVy8wBLX581JMwDabFHXvUIGtcdxysQfQP1wPDp8Of-wFi-SB4Kw#:~:text=On%20September%203%2C%202021%2C%20the,when%20in%20indoor%20public%20places](https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/face-covering-vaccination-requirements.html?fbclid=IwAR1b2xTEVy8wBLX581JMwDabFHXvUIGtcdxysQfQP1wPDp8Of-wFi-SB4Kw#:~:text=On%20September%203%2C%202021%2C%20the,when%20in%20indoor%20public%20places)

- As the police department has pointed out to your staff, masking is not law, and the police will not enforce it as such. And you can not charge your taxpaying patrons with "criminal trespassing", as that charge "shall not apply to being in a building which is open to the public while the building is open to the public during its normal hours of operation."

[https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=072000050K21-](https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=072000050K21-3&fbclid=IwAR0Q9GkZglzVckz1A0UP-NfFIMlEVjb4vzs5sTtu8RX6mUL4kOFaMiQQtM)

[3&fbclid=IwAR0Q9GkZglzVckz1A0UP-NfFIMlEVjb4vzs5sTtu8RX6mUL4kOFaMiQQtM](https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=072000050K21-3&fbclid=IwAR0Q9GkZglzVckz1A0UP-NfFIMlEVjb4vzs5sTtu8RX6mUL4kOFaMiQQtM)

- Covid has less impact on much of the population served than the flu, less impact on children than the common cold, and we've NEVER exercised such measures in the past. Are we closing pools next for risk of drowning? Banning children from vehicles? We recognize these things would be ridiculous and yet, based on FACTS, they actually make MORE sense than shutting down the library, based on those things being much higher risk.

(Chart of comparative risk attached). - There has never been a single documented case of reinfection of someone with natural immunity resulting in further transmission. It is especially illogical to continue to require masks for the naturally immune, which are now a large portion of our population.

- As I write you tonight, there are 284 patients in the ICUs in ALL of Region 8, our hospital region, made up of Kane and DuPage counties. With a total population of 1,449,399, this means 0.019% of our population is hospitalized. Does this truly constitute such extreme emergency measures? Do cries of "assault" and "threat" when a healthy person enters a facility unmasked *really* make sense?

<https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/data/hospitalization-utilization.html>

<https://kanecountyconnects.com/2022/01/covid-19-update-198-illinois-deaths-thursday-region-8-icu-beds-drop-to-32-who-says-pandemic-nowhere-near-over/>

- Cloth and surgical masks DO NOT stop the spread of illness. They say so right on their packaging, and this is in line with updated CDC announcements. They DO, however, cause multiple issues of harm within these children: developmental delays, mental health issues, hinderance of expression (again, see your bill of rights), and other physical illness among them, all demonstrated through multiple points of research. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33642617/>

- At the heart of it all, there is the serious problem of continuing to approach COVID with "one-size-fits-all" declarations and the catastrophizing of a virus that has little impact on most -- treating healthy people, OUR CHILDREN like they are dirty and dangerous. Will we *finally* recognize the drastic harm the restrictions posed on *everyone* are causing? Each person should be free to take the precautions they deem necessary and appropriate for themselves, based on their own risk level, views and health history. Let's end the harsh, incredibly negative division now.

Thank you,
Blake Nemura
Elizabeth Nemura, MS
St. Charles, IL [REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Julie P [REDACTED]
ent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 9:32 AM
To: Board
Subject: Mask policy

I want to express my support for the library staff in the wake of these protests and threats. Just because someone is paid by tax dollars it does not entitle taxpayers to expect their every demand it met nor does it mean staff are obligated to accept abusive behavior. The activist groups instigating this escalated situation are not patriots they are bullies. Libraries are a safe third space for everyone. The policy is clearly stated. Violation of policy can result in denial of services. End of story.

Julie Phillips

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] St Charles, IL [REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Shane Newton [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 9:36 AM
To: Board
Subject: Library Closing

Hello, I am a resident of St. Charles.

[REDACTED]

I read that St. Charles was closing down the library for 2 weeks in the name of safety. Where/when can we attend the meeting to learn how the taxpayers will be repaid for the closing? Also curious as to how we can strip the library of it's operating budget. We're getting pretty sick of weak-minded people in government and positions of power.

Thank you,
Concerned citizen,
Shane Newton

Edith Craig

From: Sam Farler [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 9:47 AM
To: Board
Subject: Recent Threats to the Library Staff

Dear St. Charles Library Board Members,

I would like to express my full support of the library's mask policies.

I am shocked and saddened that threats have been directed at the library staff on account of this policy designed to protect us all during the COVID pandemic.

The library staff has done a wonderful job throughout the pandemic and the expansion of the library building to continue to provide its services to the citizens of St. Charles while ensuring the safety of both staff and library patrons.

I trust the Board will take robust steps to ensure the safety of the library staff and will not allow itself to be cowed by threats of violence.

Sincerely,

C. Sam Farler

[REDACTED]

St. Charles, IL [REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Connie James-Jenkin [REDACTED]
ent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 9:48 AM
To: Board
Subject: I support library staff

Good morning

I was very disheartened to read about the daily threats that have been made to our library staff. That this vitriol has come to our community is profoundly sad. I want the Board to know that I 100% support the library/state masking policy. And I have absolute support of the library staff during this time. In the most strong terms, I condemn those making these threats.

Thank you for your time.

Connie Janes-Jenkin
[REDACTED]

South Elgin, IL [REDACTED]
(SCPL district resident/taxpayer)
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Bruce Dahlheim [REDACTED]
ent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 9:49 AM
To: Board
Subject: Library Actions

I am compelled to object to your authoritarian management of your/OUR public library. No law exists to discriminate against those that choose not to mask up to gain entrance into the facility to borrow books, browse, congregate etc. Respectfully, you are acting as a tyrannical body and denying the true science. Freedom of movement exists in the overwhelming majority of the country with only the ignorant localities shrinking in fear or having been bought off by government money.

Open up to the community and embrace freedom!

Edith Craig

From: John Farber [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 9:50 AM
To: Board
Subject: Comment for the board meeting

To Whom it May Concern,

As a resident of Saint Charles, it disgusts me that some of my fellow citizens would treat the library staff so horribly. I'm grateful for the library's resources and programs that have been available to me since moving to the Fox Valley two decades ago, and I can't imagine behaving so abhorrently given everything the library has provided in that time. Even if I disagreed with the requirement of masks, which I don't, I wouldn't take out my anger on staff who have no say on indoor masking policy or its enforcement.

Whatever accomodation the staff needs to feel safe is acceptable, and if the library needs to call upon citizens of conscience to speak out in support in order to drown out the noise of these foolish people, I will be happy to do so.

Best Regards,

John Farber
[REDACTED] Saint Charles
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Nancy Small-Killeen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 9:57 AM
To: Board
Subject: Thank you for your enforcement of the masking policy

Thank you for your efforts to keep the public safe by enforcing your masking policy.

Nancy Small-Killeen

Sent from my iPad

Edith Craig

From: sandy marschinke [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 10:00 AM
To: Board
Subject: Mask comment

We are so disappointed in learning that the library has received threatening emails and calls about masks. If wearing a mask bothers people so much they shouldn't go to the library....they have that choice. If a person has a special challenge (deaf, etc), couldn't they have a letter or something that explains that to the librarian if they really need to communicate with them? It would not mean the challenged person doesn't need to wear a mask.) We are grateful that the St Charles library has a mask mandate to keep us safe. My dad recently died of Covid after 40 days in the hospital. We know the consequences first hand. Please continue your mandate. Wearing a mask is such a small price to pay to help keep Covid from spreading.

Paul and Sandy Marschinke

(Please do not read our address out loud)

[REDACTED]
St Charles
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Edith Craig

From: Monica [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 10:03 AM
To: Board
Subject: Thank you

Thank you for your perseverance in sticking with the right thing to do during these difficult times. I'm so sorry you have to put up with such vile and malicious behavior with respect to the masking mandate. Keep doing the right thing - it is much appreciated by the majority of reasonable people who you are helping to keep safe.

Monica Morganstein
A neighboring Fox Valley, but not St. Charles, resident

Edith Craig

From: Helen Pinder [REDACTED]
ent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 10:13 AM
To: Board
Subject: Special meeting link request

Good morning,

I would like to attend this evening's virtual meeting, please. If I may, I'd also like to loudly and publicly thank the library staff who serve this community so well. You have our full support in this important public health issue. I don't know what we would do without our library.

Stay safe!

Best wishes,
Helen Pinder
[REDACTED]

St. Charles, IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Maggie Romanovich [REDACTED]
ent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 10:18 AM
To: Board
Subject: Support of policy

Although I am not a resident of St. Charles, I am in Wheaton and have seen the behavior of this group, Awake Illinois and others, cause unnecessary disruption of businesses and other public places. I write in concern of yours and my community's safety. AI and Freedom Illinois and their anti-community efforts are keeping us in this state where we need to have all of these mitigations in place and their behavior is escalating as you saw this week. They are not the majority. They just have a lot of time on their hands to seek attention and publicity.

You mission statement states your value of the spirit of community which is being blatantly disregarded. I am in support of the enforcement of library policies, with support from police protecting the employees of the library and their visitors. I support policies that prioritize the safety of the employees, and I condemn the unchecked behavior of these disorderly groups.

Sincerely,
Maggie Romanovich

/heaton IL
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: John Stock [REDACTED]
ent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 10:24 AM
To: Board
Subject: Masks

Thank you for trying to keep staff and visitors safe. "Freedom" does not mean "absolute freedom". There are thousands of examples where this is true. We are not free to go through a red light simply because we have the freedom to do so. The person fixing your flat tire is not free to only tighten 2 of the lug nuts simply because he/she is free to do so. The people of London in 1940 during the Blitzkrieg were not free to turn on their lights for those 57 nights simply because they were free to do so. Men and women who were drafted to serve in the military gave up their "freedom" to serve their country, etc, etc, etc. We all have a collective responsibility to society to help and protect each other. Thank you again for trying to keep staff and visitors safe.

Edith Craig

From: Samantha M [REDACTED]
ent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 10:25 AM
To: Board
Subject: Mask Mandate and Closure Comments

To whom it may concern,

My name is Sam and a little more than a year ago I moved to this home in St. Charles with my family; however, previous to this I lived a few minutes away, also in St. Charles. My family and I have recently rediscovered the library and now we love to explore the books and all of the other resources the library has to offer. My stepdaughter is 12 and checks out (and reads!!) about 10 books per week from the library. She also engages in the lit loot program and regularly checks out the STEAM bags. We all love the experience of the library, but she especially does and begs us to go each week. We especially love the library and the experience of it because we feel like it is a safe place to be during this pandemic. I was saddened to see an article that the library closed in-person services; however, once reading the details of why our library is closed, I am even more saddened. My family and I completely and fully stand by the library's decision to close its doors to the public at this time and our hearts go out to those staff who have worked through the pandemic and tried to stay safe only to receive this response from some members of the community. I hope the library staff members are aware that this is not the entire community's response, nor do I think it's the majority's. We would love for the library to be open, but not under the conditions of it being a less safe space to be. No one enjoys wearing masks, but we do it for the safety of ourselves and our community. We are all vaccinated in our house, and those of us eligible for a booster have received it, and we are still extremely diligent about wearing masks, washing our hands, and sanitizing to help lessen the spread of the virus. If there is anything we can help during this time, please let us know.

Thank you for your continued service to our community,
Sam Miemczewski
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Kylie Peters [REDACTED]
ent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 10:51 AM
To: Board
Subject: Meeting link and comment

Hello!

Can I please have a link to the Board meeting tonight?

My comment:

I'd like to thank the staff for all the hard work they are doing, and stress they are enduring, to bring library services to the community in this challenging time and divisive atmosphere. Health policies are vital to providing access to at-risk individuals.

I've seen several people claim that requiring a mask is segregation of people who don't wear masks. In fact, it's the opposite. To not require masks would be segregation of at-risk individuals. The difference? Whether you wear a mask is a choice. Being at-risk is not. Putting a piece of cloth over your face for a little while does not kill you (regardless of any claimed 'medical exemptions'). Being an at-risk person who contracts COVID does.

It's telling that the people who claim masks infringe on their freedom are the same ones who try to have books like *Stamped* (a book about racism) and *It's Perfectly Normal* (a sex education book) removed from our schools and libraries. Perhaps their definition of freedom is "Everyone is free to do what I want them to."

SCPL, your services are vital to the community, and your work to provide them in a way that is safe, accessible, and equitable are appreciated.

Kylie Peters
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Edith Craig

From: Lisa Quigley [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 10:54 AM
To: Board
Subject: Masks

To ALL Libraries:

I, for one, am so tired of ignorant people ruining our lives by dangerously spreading Coronavirus by not wearing masks. They are perfectly "free" to not wear one in their own home, car, yard, etc. where they have no chance to infect others. But when they start coming into MY airspace, then they should have to wear masks. These marching people are also the ones clogging our hospitals so that the rest of us (the majority) cannot get preventive tests, treatments for other illness/accidents/etc.

PLEASE stick to your policy. I wish every establishment was as informed and pro-active. I suspect those causing all the threats are also NOT vaccinated. Hurrah for the library staff! I think shutting down was the best idea. You have to treat people like children, when they act like children.

Lisa Quigley
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Please do not make my name/address phone number public - I think these are the sick fringe, in more ways than one.

Edith Craig

From: Lisa DeRosa [REDACTED]
ent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 10:57 AM
To: Board
Subject: Public Comment
Attachments: st charles.pdf

Sincerely,
Lisa Raphael



January 22, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the non-profit organization, Awake Illinois, I would like to express my support for the rights and protections of local citizens. Within St. Charles and our surrounding communities, people have the right to peaceably enter a public library mask-free.

Libraries are quiet places to study, read and explore. Libraries are also for the public, paid for by the public. Your recent actions against community members, who were respectfully using the facility, are contributing to a divisive and unwelcoming environment.

It's a sad state when LIBRARY workers are so eager to adopt authoritarianism with regular people. Instead of calling the police, a compassionate conversation could have alleviated the now escalated tension in our community. As law enforcement stated, a mandate is not law. A library is supposed to be an inviting and exploratory experience for children. Sadly, the St. Charles library has championed exclusionary, prejudicial, and incredibly misguided policies.

Do better.

Regards,

Lisa DeRosa
Awake St. Charles Chair

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Lynn Tabb [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 11:01 AM
To: Board
Subject: Mask consideration: Americans with Disabilities Act

Dear Board members of the St. Charles Library:

Not only am I appalled at the behavior of the librarians you choose to employ at the St. Charles library, I am appalled at the Board's ignorance regarding the right of the citizens of St. Charles. Not allowing a patron to be on the premises mask-free is a clear violation of the Americans with Disabilities act and the first offense is punishable by \$75,000 and the second offense is over \$120,000.

This board is subjecting themselves and the St. Charles library of being guilty of this offense and having complaints filed against them with at [ADA.gov](https://www.ada.gov/). I trust the St. Charles Library board will do the legal and right thing and stop this unethical and illegal behavior.

Sincerely,
Lynn Tabb
a concerned resident

Edith Craig

From: Laura Farinella [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 11:16 AM
To: Board
Subject: Closure of Library
Attachments: 220122 - Opinion Letter - DuPage County Daily Herald.docx

Good morning,

In support of the St. Charles Public Library, I have sent the attached letter of opinion to the Daily Herald.

It is disappointing to read how inconsiderate people are.

Sincerely,

Laura Farinella
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Parents for Progress [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 11:16 AM
To: Board
Subject: Arrest Disruptors at St. Charles Library / Letter in Support of Library
Attachments: Chrissi Bretz Freedom Illinois Instagram Post.jpg; Public Image Awake Post 2.jpg; Public Image Awake Post 1.jpg; Public Image Awake Post.jpg; Library Letter Public Image Awake.jpeg; Shannon Adcock Live on FB.jpg

Dear St. Charles Library Board of Trustees,

I am writing to condemn the failure of law enforcement, as well as the Kane County State's Attorney, to charge Shannon Adcock, President of Awake Illinois, and Chrissi Bretz, of Freedom Illinois, for their "maskless" ambush on the St. Charles Public Library. As you are aware, the public library was forced to close for their own "health and safety" due to the inaction by their own local law enforcement agency.

The library is a public place and this demonstration was not protected by the First Amendment. The First Amendment has always been subject to time, place and manner restrictions. A quiet library is not the appropriate place or time to bring a plethora of maskless children, while their disruptive parents film loud videos to advance a maskless political agenda. This display endangered every patron and staff member's health during COVID-19. It should not need to be reiterated that a mask does not necessarily protect the wearer – it protects those around them.

The library acted within their rights by calling law enforcement for help. These agitators could have easily put masks on and they would have been allowed full access to the services of the library. They continued to proudly refuse, while law enforcement failed to make any arrests. Whether or not it would have been easy to make arrests with children present is not relevant. This is why social service agencies exist. The adult agitators could have been arrested and their family members could have been called by social services to pick up the children. If the presence of children shields adults from arrest, imagine how many unsafe situations children can expect to be placed in the future. The precedent being set is dangerous.

The standard for disorderly conduct is whether these agitators acted unreasonably so as to "alarm" and "disturb" other persons, causing a breach of the peace (See Link to Statute at Bottom). This was their intent. They entered in a large group, refused to wear masks and began loudly making video broadcasts of their unreasonable demands. While they placed others at risk for contracting COVID, they bragged about their conduct on social media platforms, including Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. By the very nature of the library having to call the police, it is clear the library staff was alarmed and disturbed by this ambush. If staff had felt safe, they could have felt no need to involve law enforcement.

Based on social media posts by Awake Illinois, an organization that claims 501(c)(4) tax-exempt status, the intimidation tactics on the library continued after these extremists left the building. They continued to send their followers to the library without masks following their ambush, while posting the library's warning letters on Awake's Facebook page as a badge of honor. The comments under these posts indicate that followers continued to call the library and harass them for their mask policy.

In the simplest of terms – St. Charles Library was targeted by two extremist groups and they received no assistance by law enforcement or the State's Attorney. Just like many victims of these organized extremist groups, they were left to fend for themselves against armies of agitators that do not always appear to exercise the best judgment. If these groups had exercised any judgment in this scenario, they could have protested on the sidewalk outside the library. If they had truly wanted to use the library's services, they could have worn a mask and had no issue with access to the library.

My child and I go to the library on a regular basis and check out 30-40 books at a time. Without our public library, I would be forced to spend roughly \$5-\$20 per day on books for my child. Ms. Bretz states in her "Freedom Illinois" video that she largely buys her own books at the 10:20 minute marker. Most parents cannot afford to spend twenty dollars a day on a book. The shutdown of the library impacts poor and middle-class families, while the wealthy continue to enjoy books through purchase. Without the library being open, there will be an inequity that persists in our society where wealthy children are given greater access to educational tools, while less fortunate families cannot provide their children with the same academic resources.

I do not care if the St. Charles Mayor, police or State's Attorney think that masks are trivial. They have all taken oaths to uphold the law. The law dictates that these extremists should have been arrested for Disorderly Conduct and Trespassing. If they cannot honor their oath and enforce the law, St. Charles has a greater problem than just their library being closed – they have a community where some individuals and groups are held to be above the law, depending on the enforcer's personal belief system. This is not sustainable in any free society.

If arrests are not made in this matter, it is my request that donors are allowed to give to the library so that they can afford to pay for private security to allow the library to have a safe reopening. As a person who actually uses the library, it is by far cheaper to donate for private security costs than it would be to purchase all of the books that I checkout in a month. Please advise on how to appropriately make such a donation if law enforcement cannot keep them safe.

Thank you for your time,

Jennifer Stamp

Disorderly Conduct Law: [720 ILCS 5/26-1 \(ilga.gov\)](#)

Link to Public Instagram Video Referenced in Letter: [Freedom Illinois on Instagram: "At least 15 parents and 35 children came today to use the library unmasked!"](#)

Edith Craig

From: Beth Jahoda [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 11:27 AM
To: Board
Subject: Support of mask enforcement

Library board members,

I am writing in support of the library's enforcement of the mask policy. I was very upset to hear that a large group of unmasked kids and adults arrived at the youth services section of the library and refused to comply with the policy.

I support the mask policy, particularly in the children's department where the library's youngest patrons aren't even eligible to be vaccinated yet. Everyone should have the right to feel safe when they are at the library (both patrons and staff).

I support the library staff's right to ask patrons who will not comply with the mask policy to leave.

My family has enjoyed using the youth services department of the library for the past 15 years. We love the newly renovated children and youth areas and want to be able to continue to visit.

Thank you for considering how to keep your patrons and staff safe.

Elizabeth Jahoda
Charles resident

Sent from my iPhone

Edith Craig

From: Daniel Tarpey [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 11:30 AM
To: Board
Subject: Comment for tonight meeting

I saw on the news last night that the library was closed due to "threats". I think it would be helpful if the community understood the nature of those threats. For example, did staff feel threatened because unmasked people were coming in the library or was it something more.

The library serves a very important function in our community so I am interested to understand why such a important community resource would be shutdown.

Thank you,
Jennifer Tarpey
>
> Sent from my iPhone

Edith Craig

From: Alice Dechene [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 11:34 AM
To: Board
Subject: please enforce the mask mandate

Dear St Charles Public Library Board and library staff,

Please enforce the mask mandate for the safety of your staff and your patrons.

I have lived in St Charles for the past 24 years. I retired from my job at an area college in December and have been looking forward to being a more frequent patron again. This library has been an excellent resource for me and my family over the years and I am distressed to hear about threats to the library staff because of the mask mandate.

In my job I worked with 18-24 year olds, an age group notorious for their risk tolerance, but not one of those students questioned or fought the mask mandate because they understood that it was in place for everyone's safety. I am shocked that community members are so willing to spit in the face of library staff because they don't want to wear a mask. No library employee should face danger and feel threatened at work.

Patrons have the *choice* of using the library in-person with the expectation of adherence to the mask mandate; they likewise have the *choice* to make use of the drive up window or curbside material pickup if they reject the mask mandate. If patrons *choose to be in person*, then they *accept the mask mandate*. It is that simple.

Please continue to rigorously uphold and enforce the mask mandate for the safety of your staff and your patrons. I expect the library board to support and prioritize library employees' safety and also the safety of community patrons.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alice Dechene

[REDACTED] St Charles IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

--
Alice Dechene

Edith Craig

From: Jim Baum [REDACTED]
ant: Saturday, January 22, 2022 11:40 AM
To: Board
Subject: St Charles Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting - 1/22/22 - In Support of Library Face Masking Policies

We are writing in support of the St Charles library face masking policies.

It is our opinion that it is the responsible action to take to help protect young and old patron populations who, from our observations, are frequent users of the library.

It disappoints us that so many people feel the minimal request to wear a mask inside the library is too much for them, and that they need to put themselves ahead of the community.

Jim Baum and Diane Crater

[REDACTED]
St Charles, IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Laura Peacock [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 11:46 AM
To: Board
Subject: Board meeting 1-22-22

Dear Board Members of St. Charles Public Library:

As a tax payer who contributes to funding your library, I am extremely disappointed to hear of recent events involving the library's treatment of patrons who are not wearing a mask. A mandate is not a law, and as individuals we can choose to wear a mask to cover our faces or we can choose to breathe naturally.

I would rather find a different library to visit than deal with such authoritarian behavior. If masks are so effective, those who feel the need to wear them can and should feel safe.

I don't feel safe bringing my children into your library if this nonsense continues.

Sincerely,

Laura Peacock
Wayne, IL
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Drew Nicholson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 11:48 AM
To: Board
Subject: Enforcement of Safety Policy

Dear St. Charles Library Board of Trustees,

I am writing to strongly condemn the failure of law enforcement and the County State's Attorney to arrest and press charges against Shannon Adcock, President of Awake Illinois, and Chrissi Bretz, of Freedom Illinois, for their "maskless" ambush on the St. Charles Public Library.

Libraries are public places, and protecting the common good matters in them. This baseless and unwarranted demonstration is not an exercise of anyone's First Amendment rights, but was instead an act of terror designed to endanger the health and lives of others -- including the endangerment of the disruptive parents' own children, as well as every patron and staff member's health during COVID-19. It should not need to be reiterated that a mask does not necessarily protect the wearer -- it protects those around them.

The library acted correctly by calling law enforcement for help. Had Adcock's goon-squad put masks on and followed the rules, they would have been allowed into the library. Instead, they refused, and law enforcement inexplicably failed to make any arrests, claiming "there were too many children present." Somehow, when it's drug busts, or theft, or other crimes, the presence of children is managed, but when it's political extremism, the police are suddenly helpless. This emboldens and enables these same kinds of tactics in the future: how many criminals will go free because children are present?

The intent of this group was to "alarm" and "disturb" other persons -- a breach of the peace. It's clear the library staff felt endangered, because they called the police. And then, Awake Illinois continued to send their followers to the library without masks after these extremists left the building, and posting the library's warning letters on social media, directing and empowering their followers continued to call the library and harass them for their mask policy.

Your library was deliberately targeted by not one, but two extremist groups, and they received no assistance from the police or the State's Attorney. Instead, they were left to fend for themselves against threatening and dangerous people. And so, fearing for the safety of the staff and legitimate patrons, the St. Charles Library has closed to in-person activities.

Ms. Bretz states in her "Freedom Illinois" video that she largely buys her own books, but many parents struggle to purchase books for their children. The shutdown of the library impacts poor and middle-class families, while the wealthy continue to enjoy books through purchase. When libraries close, inequity reigns in a society where wealthy children are given greater access to educational tools, and less fortunate families cannot provide their children with the same academic resources.

Maybe the St. Charles Mayor, police or State's Attorney think that masks aren't necessary. That doesn't matter. They have all taken oaths to uphold the law. The law dictates that these extremists should have been arrested for Disorderly Conduct and Trespassing. If they cannot honor their oath and enforce the law, they should resign and leave governance of the City to people who will fulfill their oaths. Otherwise, St. Charles becomes a community where some individuals and groups are above the law, depending on the enforcer's personal belief system. This is not sustainable in any free society.

If arrests are not made in this matter, I ask that the Board determine that donors are allowed to donate to the library to pay for private security, in order to allow the library to have a safe reopening. It is by far cheaper to donate for private security costs than it would be for most people to purchase all of the books that they checkout in a month. Please advise on how to appropriately make such a donation if law enforcement cannot keep them safe.

I also request that the Board issue a statement strongly condemning the behavior of the Police, Mayor, and State's Attorney, and that the Board request the intervention of Federal Law Enforcement.

Sincerely,

Drew Nicholson

Edith Craig

From: Kathy Bowman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 11:55 AM
To: Board
Subject: "Safety" of masks

Board Members of St. Charles,

I respectfully challenge you to the efficacy of masks at this point. To date, there has been no real science to the fact that it reduces the risk of the spread of the virus. The public, and especially those tax paying citizens, who frequent the St. Charles library, are having their liberties curtailed in the name of "safety".

This demonizing and division of humanity is a tactic of control. It's disgraceful. Please make your library fully available to the taxpayers of your district and respect the rights, freedoms and liberties of all Americans.

Kathy Bowman (grandmother of patrons, and a concerned citizen)

Edith Craig

From: Nikki Powell [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 12:14 PM
To: Board
Subject: Masking and Covid safety

I have been informed that the St. Charles Library Board is having a meeting today about the recent maskless ambush on their public library by Awake and Freedom Illinois. I also understand that the library is currently closed due health and safety concerns following this event.

I feel it is my duty to let you know that I whole heartedly condemn the conduct of Awake and Freedom Illinois. Masking is one very important measure we can do as a community to keep everyone safe and the library open to all people of the community and to the Fox valley region as a whole. The decision to mask should not be a political one but a community health and safety one. These groups should not be allowed to bully us as a society and we should not bend to their threats. Most of the members of our society want to be safe and be peaceful, and most importantly live our lives respecting ourselves and those that are vulnerable around us.

If law enforcement won't make arrests and help protect the safety of your employees and patrons, I would like the library to be afforded the opportunity to have private security so that they may reopen their doors.

Please know that there are many of us who support the decision to wear masks while in public places and continue be smart and safe during a pandemic. We want to see all services to be able to remain open and run safely.

Thank you for your time.

Nicole Powell
Oswego, Illinois

Edith Craig

From: Suzy Bell [REDACTED]
ent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 12:19 PM
To: Board
Subject: Recent Actions

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to let you know that I do not support the recent actions of Awake and Freedom groups that took place. The library should be a safe place for everyone including families who follow the mask mandates as well as your employees. No one should feel threatened by a group of people who have no regard for public health and safety.

Edith Craig

From: Tricia Sabathne [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 12:24 PM
To: Board
Subject: Library Policies

For Special Meeting 1-22-22
Tricia Sabathne
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I am regular library patron who also understands how the library is a pillar for all in the community. I urge the board to uphold and enforce the mask policy at this time.

Edith Craig

From: Melissa [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 12:30 PM
To: Board
Subject: Thank you for enforcing mandates

Hello, I live in Lombard but am a big library fan, as well as a fan of people acting neighborly. I was very sorry to read about all the troubles you've had lately with anti-maskers disrupting your services. Please know that there are many who support your work! Thanks again.

Melissa Gonzalez

Edith Craig

From: Matthew Hoffman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 12:32 PM
To: Board
Subject: Support of library staff and mask policy

Board Members -

I am writing to support the staff at the library and Covid measures currently in place. I am a patron that not only uses the library for its materials and media but someone who also enjoys the opportunity to read and study within the library when I am able and recently have done so during visits that have lasted a few hours at a time.

During my visits to the library, whether brief or extended, I do not find the current public health and safety measures in place unreasonable or impacting my ability to utilize and enjoy our public library.

I understand that others may feel that a mask mandate is intrusive and inconvenient and believe me, there are times when I grow tired of wearing a mask but I comply to help keep places like the library open and available to the public.

I also support the decision to close the library out of safety concerns from staff. Library staff should not be threatened by the public in any way, whether in person, via e-mail or by making inappropriate phone calls. As a citizen and patron, I am very disappointed that the library had to close due to the irresponsibility and selfishness of others. But closing the library due to threats of harm is absolutely appropriate. Yes the closure impacts those of us who comply with the rules but so be it if others chose not to behave responsibly.

Regards,

Matt Hoffman

Edith Craig

From: Kathleen Taylor [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 12:33 PM
To: Board
Subject: Library Needs to be Open

Please reopen the library. So many residents depend on your services. Unfortunately, unmasked people are in all of our local businesses on a daily basis. You will find them from Meier to Ace to the local coffee houses. Everywhere you enter, you'll find unmasked people. It's not going to stop. One drive thru window for pickup for thousands of patrons won't work. I was there yesterday to drop off materials and the backup of cars was 10+ deep!

Perhaps, hiring a security officer temporarily out of the Federal gov. covid funds that I assume the city received from the state would put staff more at ease. Please reopen the library. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

A patron and resident of St. Charles

Edith Craig

From: Anna Crilly [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 12:33 PM
To: Board
Subject: Please keep mask mandate

I've been keeping my daughter home for homeschooling and not doing playdates for the last 2 years. I was hoping the library would be the place we started getting back into the world with because I heard how you were strict with the mask mandate. I have another child who is not eligible for her shots yet. I have a sister with long covid. My husband has had coworkers die, and we know people who have lost children and grandchildren to COVID.

I realize that these people are threatening. I am as afraid of them as I am of the virus.... however, we have police for them, and masks for the virus. We can be safe from everything if we don't compromise.

I don't have an answer for you, but I do think that legal action should be taken against the Awake IL group. They are growing and were even congratulated by Tucker Carlson on Twitter. They are doing the worst thing that anyone can do right now, which is bring unmasked CHILDREN in to do their dirty work. They are public and have had many witnesses.

I have emailed our mayor about the disappointment I have for our police right now. I also left a voicemail at the governor's office and our county health department. I wish I wasn't ignored. I'm tired of staying home. My kids are tired of staying home. But, we can't leave our home until these people are dealt with. I'm too small, but I would think our people of power in our town can come up with a solution. That's their job. We have terrified people in our community, and it's time to do the right thing for them.

Thank you.

Anna Burhans
Resident of [REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Amy buono [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 12:44 PM
To: Board
Subject: Awake IL

I am writing to let you know I do not agree with the situation your staff was put in due to awake IL. Your staff and other patrons who follow the state mandate should never feel threatened by others. My children have happily been masking and checking out books during the entire pandemic.

Edith Craig

From: Zachary Petersohn [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 12:48 PM
To: Board
Subject: Library closure

Hello,

I'm writing to express my support for the library staff and the mask mandate. It is appalling to me that certain members of our community are so unable to cope with their own feelings of helplessness that they resort to bullying public employees following very ordinary medical recommendations; and if police are unwilling to enforce the mask policy or remove trespassers, I would respectfully request that the library be afforded private security who will.

Thank you for your consideration.

Zach Petersohn

Edith Craig

From: Carla And Joseph [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 12:48 PM
To: Board
Subject: OPPOSED to Stc library mask mandate

To library board members,

My name is Carla Pignataro and I live in Geneva. I have used the St Charles Library and I am disgusted at the behavior of the library staff. I am OPPOSED to enforcing the mask mandate for patrons of the library. It is not a law and as tax payers we should be allowed to chose whether or not to wear masks. As parents we should be able to dictate whether our children wear masks or not. It is shameful that you are keeping children as young as 2 from the library because of fear. We have been dealing with this pandemic for two years and have prevented nothing by the wearing of masks. A better solution would be to tell people to stay home if they are sick and wash their hands frequently. The library is overstepping their boundaries and are preventing citizens who pay taxes from using the library. Shame on the staff for calling the police.

I am OPPOSED to the mask mandate!!!

Sincerely,

Carla Pignataro
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
eneva, il [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Kimberly Freitag [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 12:57 PM
To: Board
Subject: Board Policy Re: Masks

Dear Library Board Members,

I am not a resident of the St. Charles Library District; however, I occasionally visit the library in St. Charles, particularly to attend programs open to the public. I appreciate that the Board is complying with the State's mask mandate, a sensible way to keep everyone safe. I am appalled that threats have been made against library staff. That type of behavior is completely unacceptable.

I encourage the Board to direct library staff to try to ascertain the name of any persons making threats - via phone, email, or in person - report these miscreants to the police, and work with the State's Attorney's Office to prosecute offenders to the fullest extent of the law. Additionally, the library privileges of such criminals should be withdrawn or at least suspended for a significant period of time. Bad behavior unchecked not only encourages continued bad behavior but emboldens the perpetrators. This must stop!

Sincerely,

Kim Freitag
[REDACTED]

lgin, IL. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

--

Educational Consultant
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Amy Sheridan-Dufresne [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 1:12 PM
To: Board
Subject: Fw: Upcoming meeting about masks

Hi,

I just read that you will be reading comments at the meeting.

My address is [REDACTED] in St. Charles, [REDACTED] and my phone number is [REDACTED]. I have lived here for 19 years (previous name was Amy Sheridan-Dufresne) and have used the library extensively during that time. My fourth child is a sophomore [REDACTED] and she has enjoyed studying at the library this school year as one of the few alternatives to being at home.

And those of us who are willing to abide by the rules are really, really tired of dealing with selfish people who aren't.

Thank you and I wish you wisdom in this difficult time.

Amy Sheridan

-- Forwarded Message ----
From: Amy Sheridan-Dufresne [REDACTED]
To: board@scpld.org <board@scpld.org>
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022, 08:10:35 AM CST
Subject: Upcoming meeting about masks

Hi,

I saw that the board was meeting about safety and masks. As a frequent user of the library, I would like to ask that you put security in place so that the staff is safe and masks continue to be required. The loud, stupid people who feel like they don't need to wear masks are a small minority, but reasonable people rarely speak up. Please continue to keep us safe and continue to require masks at the library. Don't give in to the bullies. And I hope you will be taking all steps to keep your staff safe.

Thank you.

Amy Sheridan

Edith Craig

From: Beatriz McGuire [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 1:21 PM
To: Board
Subject: Re: letter of support

Dear Board,

I fully support your efforts to protect the safety of your patrons and employees. I am outraged about how your library was targeted by Awake Illinois, as evidenced by their videos and Facebook threads. They are celebrating the fact that they were not removed by the St. Charles police for trespassing. The policemen that responded to the library's call for help made the wrong call. Some are encouraging this type of behavior in other public libraries. I doubt Awake and company would try this in Chicago, but your library seemed like an easy target

Thank you for everything you are doing for those in the community.

Beatriz McGuire

Edith Craig

From: Kim Stover [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 1:25 PM
To: Board
Subject: Re: Library Mask Policy

I would like to add my phone [REDACTED] and address [REDACTED] I support mask wearing and our staff at the St. Charles Library!!!

> On Jan 22, 2022, at 8:39 AM, Kim Stover [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> Hi there,

> I am a citizen whose taxes support the library and a patron. I 100% fully support the mask requirement at the library. Just as shirts and shoes are required in public places (other than the swimming pool) given the current pandemic we should mask up in this space to help keep workers and other patrons safe.

> I find it disgusting what Awake Illinois did coming into our community with their vile hatred and staging their demonstration on social media for more crazies to make threats against the library.

> Please stay strong, we support our library and want to keep our staff and patrons healthy.

> Thank you for all you do for our community, Kim

Edith Craig

From: PAUL DAYTON [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 1:28 PM
To: Board
Subject: Questions for 1/22/22 BOD Meeting

1. Are the plans you are developing sufficient to address not only the current mask situation, but also other future situations such as: need to present proof of vaccination, patrons carrying weapons, violent or unruly patrons (including children), etc.?
2. What specifically are the plans?
3. How is information on rules/requirements for library entry, language used on phone, and in library conduct to be transmitted to the public at large?
4. Are any of the violators of last Tuesday to suffer any consequences?
5. Where the names, addresses, etc of the violators of last Tuesday obtained? If not, why not?

Best regards,
Paul Dayton
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Elissa Hyde [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 1:29 PM
To: Board
Subject: Comment for meeting today/Request for meeting link

Name: Elissa Hyde
Address: [REDACTED], St. Charles

*I request a link to attend this meeting.

Comment: I am a Saint Charles resident and a homeschool mom of four kids. I ask you to stop the discrimination against those who cannot mask. It is unconscionable that you are banning, calling the police on, and kicking mothers and children out of your facility, and now closing down this public facility. I can't even believe that we have to have this meeting. This behavior is so clearly discriminatory, and unconstitutional. St. Charles residents just want to be able to be able to pick out and read books and be able to let their kids explore the library and be able to meet a friend there.

Before your unconstitutional policy, my children and I were at the library at least twice a week for hours at a time. Homeschool parents especially rely on the library. We have not been able to go for years. I applaud these mothers and fathers standing up for their rights and the rights of others. And I am ashamed of the way you have responded. It's dehumanizing, it's unconstitutional, and it's simply wrong.

Those who are medically unable to wear masks or choose not to wear masks for their health or because they are religiously or philosophically opposed are able to go to the Post Office and use that facility, go to a grocery store, go out to restaurants, see a movie... but they can't use the library they pay for with their tax dollars? Leaders of those businesses can keep their doors safely open, why can't you?

Please also consider that mask manufacturers and the CDC have now admitted masks do not work. With this being the case, why would you enforce this policy so harshly?

I sincerely hope you reconsider your actions on this matter. This behavior is more befitting of a tyrant than a compassionate leader of our community. But there is an opportunity here to reverse these discriminatory actions; I urge you with all my heart, please do so.

Edith Craig

From: Lee Kolodziej [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 1:31 PM
To: Board
Subject: Library policy and facemask issue

I applaud the library for keeping and enforcing the facemask rule as recommended by the governor, the CDC and others. This is not a political position or statement. It is one of personal concern and care for OTHERS as well as ourselves. What someone does in the privacy of their own home is not my business but when their behavior, or lack of, can affect me and others it does become my business. We want to live in a social world. Out and about. That requires responsibility and accountability of each of us and not every behavior is covered in writing or law. Common sense, in short supply these days, must prevail.

One can not choose to walk naked out on the streets. Correct? Violate anyone's God given freedom? We are born without clothing so why isn't THIS statute challenged as well? I see no demonstrations or picket lines over this issue.

A mask, temporary but unknown in actual need of length of time, is necessary, requested, required to "love thy neighbor as thy self." People need to get over their selfishness, their "me, me, me" attitude and the "my freedoms are violated" BS.

Read some history to learn about REAL restrictions imposed with much longer stints of unknown times in our recent history. if you dare? WWII imposed rationing of food, clothing and building materials needed for the war effort. Nylons anyone? Wool? Steel? Fuel? Four years sound long enough?

The GREAT Depression of '29. HUGE job loss, no government support checks, rationing due to wage/income reductions, lines at stores for food, fuel, etc.....

You know what? WE, our parents and/or grandparents navigated through these times, and others in their lives, and survived. Learned a little how to endure life rather than complain about it and make it everyone else's fault. Picked themselves up, brushed themselves off and went on with their lives.....

Didn't have 250+ channels of TV to watch, cell phone to play games, text and talk to friends and family on, ability to stream all kinds of entertainment right in front of their faces or the internet with which to "talk to and be entertained by the world" round the clock!!!! Cars to just "go for a ride" with for the day (pick one of your three). Sheeeesh.

Poor babies are asked to mask up for us all and can't do it.....to bad.

I applaud the library and hope they keep and enforce their position in attempting to provide some security and protection for us all including themselves.

Respectfully yours,

Lee Kolodziej

[REDACTED]
St Charles, IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Am a library patron and supply my personal information as verification of who I am but I ask that my address and phone not be made public in any way. Usage of my name is allowed. Please call if you have questions.

would like info re the meeting today to be able to sign on.

Edith Craig

From: Karen Kaluzsa
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 1:48 PM
To: Board
Subject: Fwd: Support for the St. Charles library's mask policy

This email did not go through to the Board account (the error message said the server was miconfigured or something) so it was sent to my private email so I could forward it on.

[Get Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Karen Kaluzsa [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 1:44 PM
To: Karen Kaluzsa
Subject: Fwd: Support for the St. Charles library's mask policy

Begin forwarded message:

From: Gayle McCain [REDACTED]
Date: January 22, 2022 at 1:23:25 PM CST
To: Karen Kaluzsa [REDACTED]
Subject: Support for the St. Charles library's mask policy

Good morning,

I am writing this morning to express my whole-hearted support for the library's mask policy.

These are stressful times and yes, we are all tired; but this should not become an issue of power and control and personal liberties. It is an issue of public health and safety, and I hope to always live in a community where we are willing to sacrifice some personal liberties or comfort in order to protect our more vulnerable members.

The risk of the spread of Covid is still very real, and I remain grateful for local organizations who follow CDC guidelines and take the responsibility to act with concern for the common good of the community.

Thank you all for your hard work on our behalf.

Sincerely,

Gayle McCain

[REDACTED]
Wayne, IL
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Victoria Haines [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 1:50 PM
To: Board
Subject: My warmest regards

I am so sorry that board and especially staff have to confront this issue. Regardless of one's personal health convictions, rules are rules. To take out frustrations on good people just trying to do their jobs is unconscionable. My heart goes out to all of you and as always my full support.

Tory Haines
[REDACTED] St Charles
[REDACTED]

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
[Get Outlook for Android](#)

Edith Craig

From: Mary Holland [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 1:50 PM
To: Board
Subject: Safety at the library

Dear Board Members and brave librarians

The scales of Freedom are balanced between "Rights" and "Responsibilities".

Individuals have a "right" to refuse to wear a mask.

The balance of that is that they also have the "responsibility" to obey the regulations, laws, rules etc of the community, state and/or nation. Currently in our community, individuals can not legally enter public buildings without a mask.

I admire the bravery of the St. Charles Library staff. Too many public entities look the other way when someone enters without a mask: which is a defiance of the law (whether I like or agree with this law is immaterial) . The St Charles Public Library understands it's responsibility to keep patrons safe. Thank you.

I support keeping the St Charles Public Library closed until it is a safer time, or open but with added security measures and believe that those who threaten, bully, or intimidate them should be legally prosecuted.

Thank you for all you do,

Sincerely,

Mary Holland

St. Charles resident.

Edith Craig

From: Erika Sieh [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 1:58 PM
To: Board
Subject: Masks

Thank you for standing strong to protect all of your patrons. It's such a shame that a small minority have to ruin things for everyone else.

Erika Sieh
Aurora, Illinois.

Edith Craig

From: Karen Kaluzsa [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 2:10 PM
To: Karen Kaluzsa; Board
Subject: Fwd: We ♥ our library

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kathie Connolly [REDACTED]
Date: January 22, 2022 at 12:36:25 PM CST
To: board@scpl.org
Subject: Fwd: We ♥ our library

Dear Library Board and staff

We are so sorry to hear of the mean-spirited, frightening and self-serving demonstrations you and your staff had to endure this week.

Please recognize that the majority of your patrons appreciate the measures, including face masks, that you have instituted to protect both your staff and visitors. A mask is a minor inconvenience to protect your staff, other patrons, ourselves and our families.

Please know the elected board continues to have our support.

Sincerely

Kathie and Peter Connolly

Wayne, IL

Sent from my iPhone

Edith Craig

From: Carolyn Heiss [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 2:11 PM
To: Board
Subject: Anti-mask

I'd like to thank the staff for all the hard work they are doing, and stress they are enduring, to bring library services to the community in this challenging time and divisive atmosphere. Health policies are vital to providing access to at-risk individuals.

I've seen several people claim that requiring a mask is segregation of people who don't wear masks. In fact, it's the opposite. To not require masks would be segregation of at-risk individuals. The difference? Whether you wear a mask is a choice. Being at-risk is not. Putting a piece of cloth over your face for a little while does not kill you (regardless of any claimed 'medical exemptions'). Being an at-risk person who contracts COVID does.

Carolyn Arder
[REDACTED] STC

P [REDACTED] | F [REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Robyn Kilberger [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 2:13 PM
To: Board
Subject: library board meeting tonight

Hello,

I would like to join this meeting. Can you please reply with the link for access?

It is unfortunate that the library has been forced to close due to these threats. These threats must be investigated by law enforcement, as people do not have a right to make these threats. I support the library staff enforcing the mask mandate put in place by our duly elected governor. Library staff are taking care to protect themselves and all library patrons from a possibly deadly, highly contagious, airborne virus by enforcing this mandate.

If this threatening behavior is ignored by law enforcement, those making the threats will have won by causing us tax paying citizens to lose access to the knowledge and power that can be gained from patronizing the library and they will move onto threatening our teachers next, if they have not already.

Robyn Kilberger

[REDACTED] South Elgin, IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Do not share my address and phone number as I do not wish for myself or family to be threatened or harassed.

Thank you

Edith Craig

From: Van De Sempel, Edward [REDACTED]
Int: Saturday, January 22, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Board
Subject: Mask Mandate

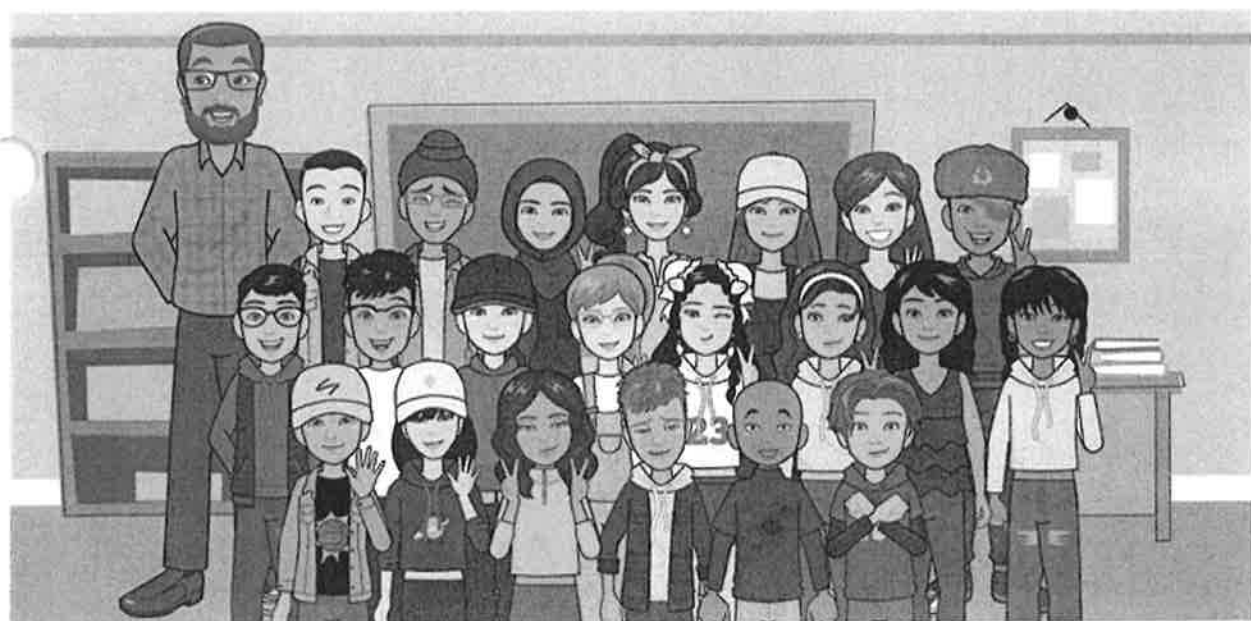
Good afternoon,

I appreciate the fact that the Public Library is operating with the health of its employees and patrons in mind. It is unfortunate that so many people in our community, as well as neighboring communities, have made a real world health issue a political one. Clearly, they want a choice – from the various posts and video clips they share. Then, does it not make the most sense that they use their choice to access the library through its virtual offerings? As a resident of St. Charles, a parent of three and the spouse of a D303 employee, I support you in your endeavor in attempting to keep our community safe. Please, continue following the mandate accordingly. Choosing to ignore the pandemic, its constant spread – especially the newest strain -, and operating under the norm of pre pandemic, would be just as irresponsible as those who rallied troops from various suburbs to blindly mock segregation and sit-in civil rights actions through the attempted comparison being made as they “fight for their rights of inclusion,” and blatantly ignore the health mandates and requirements put forth. Would this same group enter establishments that require shoes and shirts in order to receive service, without? Picking and choosing freedoms based on politics does not make sense. Nor does picking and choosing which mandates, rules, or laws to follow.

Our community continues to grow divided. You are not the first domino in that event, nor unfortunately, will you be the last. I have also emailed the mayor my general concerns with these actions – but have not received any response. I hope our meeting and discussions are productive, and you’ll be able to come forth with a plan that is safe for all, and makes the most sense.

Thanks for all you do-

Mr. V
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Edith Craig

From: Wanda Rundle [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 2:23 PM
To: Board
Subject: Remarks for Emergency Meeting 1/22/2022

My name is Wanda Rundle and I have watched this entire situation unfold on social media since Sunday, January 16, 2021. On that date there was a social media post made claiming that the police were called on a 10 year old for not masking at the St Charles library. This was amplified by an anti mask activist from Wheaton named Jessica Hockett who uses the Twitter handle [REDACTED]. From there, two more activists, Chrissi Bretz of Geneva who runs Freedom Illinois and Shannon Adcock of Naperville who runs Awake Illinois hatched a plan to have a maskless protest at our library on the morning of the 18th. Note that not one of these people are from St Charles. On the 18th I had a phone call with Kelly at the library after seeing Awake's livestream and expressed my concern for this occurring on the premises as well as my support for the staff as they do not deserve to be the subject of the political ire of these groups. The January 16th incident never occurred and so this entire protest was created based on a lie from some bored mom trying to gain social media clout in her Facebook group.

I reached out to the Mayor regarding what I considered to be inadequate support from law enforcement and from the city regarding this behavior. She said that these were just moms and their children enjoying the library services and that the police acted appropriately. I vehemently disagree. And there is evidence to support that because if the incident was "handled" correctly the first time then the behavior would not have escalated every day after January 18th leading to our library having to close its doors to the public for in person services. They got away with it according to their videos, yet they continue to harass the library. What is their end game? It isn't adding up.

The recurring argument from these groups is that masking is a mandate and not a law and therefore they can do whatever they please. However, that is not the example we should be setting for our children, nor is that the society we should strive to live it. There are a number of rules or guidelines that we follow that are not laws that can be enforced to the extent that if they are not followed you then are breaking the law by not honoring the request of the premises. This is the very reason trespassing and disorderly conduct laws exist. In this case there were clear violations both in their refusal to mask up or leave and in their video recording. Legal action would be appropriate especially since they are still on social media antagonizing the community about their exploits.

St Charles Library is not responsible for the mask mandate and taking out their aggression on the library is misplaced and only harms the community. It doesn't matter what anyone's personal feelings are on masking are here, because again the librarians and library board didn't set the guidelines. Take it up with Springfield, take it up with Pritzker. However, we as members of a society, have a responsibility to conduct ourselves with respect for each other and our community. I think it is telling that Shannon and Chrissi didn't cause trouble in their own communities. They didn't take resources away from their towns. They did it in a place where they don't have skin in the game. And now they know St Charles police will look the other way the next time they want to stir the pot. They have been bragging about it on social media all week. I hope the board will look to take legal action against Shannon, Chrissi, and their organizations. But I stand with the library staff and their decision to honor the policies in place and posted on the door because they were in a tough position and the library patrons who were there and masked didn't deserve to be part of that spectacle.

Thank you,

Wanda Rundle

[REDACTED]
Charles IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Candice Moore [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 2:24 PM
To: Board
Subject: comment in support

Dear Board Members,

This comment is in support of your actions related to the threats you received this past week.

Thank you for enforcing the state-wide mask mandate, doing the right thing, calling the police and working with the police for a safety plan.

We support prioritizing public safety.

Thank you also for not including the name of the threatening group in the press. Not promoting them gives them less power.

Please remember reasonable people do not make a scene and tend to support quietly because, they are reasonable.

Stay strong and take care,

Candy Moore

Anne Moore

[REDACTED] St. Charles, IL [REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Sue Klinkhamer [REDACTED]
nt: Saturday, January 22, 2022 2:28 PM
To: Board
Subject: Comment

To the STC library Director Craig and dedicated staff

Thank you so much for keeping us safe. I know it is tough to stay strong in the face of protest but rules are rules and must be enforced and followed or there is chaos. I also work in a public facility and have seen an uptick in disrespect for rules, resulting many times in threats and vandalism. People must realize that though they will say "it wasn't meant as a threat" many times their comments are indeed threats. One comment stated the police came in and said they wouldn't/couldn't enforce the mask policy which makes them think they have a green light to act any way they want. I would hope when police watch your security tape they will deal with the threat makers. You are not wrong.

Sue Klinkhamer
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sue Klinkhamer
Sent from my iPad

Edith Craig

From: Katherine B [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 2:32 PM
To: Board
Subject: Support of library staff safety

Hello,

I'd like to submit a comment for the board meeting held today at 5pm:

I was dismayed to hear about the threatening protest that occurred at my public library this past Tuesday. For the past 21 months, I've admired the approach to safety that the SCPL has continually upheld. Because of the library's clear, thoughtful, and evidence-based precautions, it has been the ONLY indoor place I've felt comfortable taking my child for nearly two years. Our family wholeheartedly supports the mask mandate which allows us to utilize the library with minimal risk of contracting COVID.

My daughter loves the library, and specifically, the childrens' librarians who have helped foster a love of reading and learning since she was a baby. I'm heartbroken to hear that the librarians who I hold in such high regard were threatened in their workplace. I'm angered to hear that library staff and trustees are the targets of verbal abuse. We support any measures that will allow our librarians to be safe. My wish is that all library staff feel encouraged and appreciated by the community, and that they are able to carry out their work without worry for their personal safety or the safety of other patrons.

If possible, I would love to watch the Board Meeting tonight and would appreciate receiving a link to the meeting.

Thank you,
Katherine Brito, Jorge Brito and Clara Brito
[REDACTED]
St Charles, IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Edith Craig

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 2:36 PM
To: Board
Subject: Support the Library Board Masking during pandemic

Dear Board,

My name is Linda Robertson and I am an industrial microbiologist who lives in the district. The St Charles library is an excellent resource for me as a small business owner. I have utilized the resources to obtain access needed technical articles that would otherwise require me to go to a large university library. Even more I value the books, programs, and resources that a library provides. Since moving to St Charles in 1988, we have seen the library modernize and become a wonderful resource for our family.

At this time, Covid testing positivity rates are over 17% in Kane County. While I am fully vaccinated and boosted, I do understand how breakthrough infections can happen. For those of us fully vaccinated and boosted the risk of hospitalization and death is fairly low, except for those with compromised immune systems. This includes those over 65 as well as those with diabetes, MS, donated organs, or those taking immunosuppressive drugs. I gladly wear a mask. I don't know if could be shedding viral particles with an asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic case of Covid. The last thing I want to do is to harm someone by my actions. Face shields have been proven to be ineffective. The Omicron variant is extremely contagious, which is why the CDC is encouraging people to use KN95 or N95 well fitted masks.

Please continue to enforce the mask policy until the community transmission of Covid is minimized. Wearing a mask to enter the library to select books or attend a program is simple. Protect others for the common good. People who do not wish to comply can simply utilize the online resources to search for books and pick them up at the hold window.

Sincerely,
Linda Robertson

[REDACTED]
St Charles, IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: SCPL Site
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 2:39 PM
To: Board
Subject: Support of safety measures

Submitted on Saturday, January 22, 2022 - 2:39pm Submitted by user:
Submitted values are:

Subject: Support of safety measures

Name: Natalie Leisering

E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

Message:

My family and I frequent the library on a regular basis and we're saddened to hear of the treats on staff. As a community member I stand in support of the safety measures the library is taking to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Natalie Leisering
Saint Charles, IL

Edith Craig

From: Laura Werner [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 2:51 PM
To: Board
Subject: Support of Masking

Dr. St. Charles Library,

I am in full support of masking in the library, and I want to thank everyone who has done their best to make the library safe and welcoming.

Sincerely,
Laura Werner

[REDACTED]
St. Charles, IL [REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Katelyn Boyle
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 2:58 PM
To: Board
Subject: Letter to be read at the Emergency Board Meeting - From Miss Katelyn - Katelyn Boyle

As the Early Literacy Librarian at the St. Charles Public Library, it is my job to focus on children 0-5 and their grown-ups. Most of the patrons I serve on a daily basis cannot be vaccinated due to their age.

I am sure I speak for everyone in my department when I say that we are Youth Services Librarians because we care. We are not in this profession for money, accolades, or personal gain. We do what we do because we want to provide a fun, enriching, and most of all, safe environment for the children we interact with.

We miss seeing the smiles of our community, and we miss showing them ours, but we know we are doing the best thing for the people we interact with. We are doing this because it keeps them safe. We are following the policies set in place by our director, our board, and our state. We, ourselves, also deserve to feel safe when we come to work to do a job that means so much to us. Worrying that our personal space and safety will be violated is stressful and unhealthy. Sadly, this is something we have been dealing with for some time now.

I want to let all of our families know that we are still here for you, we care, and we can't wait to see you again soon when it is safe to do so. I am proud to work in this amazing community.

Sincerely, Miss Katelyn - Katelyn Boyle

Katelyn Boyle

Early Literacy Librarian
St. Charles Public Library
305 S. 9th St.
St. Charles, IL 60174
(630) 584-0076 x281
kboyle@scpld.org

“We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, 'It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.' Then, there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.” - Fred Rogers

PLEASE NOTE: PURSUANT TO ILLINOIS STATE LAW, E-MAIL COMMUNICATION TO AND FROM THIS ADDRESS MAY BE SUBJECT TO PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.

Edith Craig

From: Lara Kristofer [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 3:02 PM
To: Board
Subject: Board meeting comments

Hi, you do not need to read this outloud at the meeting if you feel it is too lengthy, but I do hope all of the board members will take the time to read my thoughts and comments. Thank you!

Good evening, and thank you for taking the time to listen to public comments. I am viewing this situation through many lenses - I am a parent of four children, ages 7-13, I am a taxpayer in the city of St Charles, I am an educator in our community, and I am an American who embraces the fact that our country was founded on the principle of freedom. Every day in our schools, we recite the pledge of allegiance. You may have even recited it at the start of the meeting. Please keep in mind, the last 7 words of this pledge of allegiance are, "indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." It doesn't say "indivisible, with liberty and justice for some."

When an organization attempts to restrict access to a certain group or individual, based on an overreaching and unreasonable government mandate, civil disobedience happens. With Black History Month looming on the horizon, I am guessing you are getting ready to stock the displays with books about Rosa Parks who as a black woman in the 1950s was "required" to give up her seat to a white man but refused to do so in protest of the unjust segregation laws. In much the same way, others throughout history have performed similar heroic acts. In much the same way, a group of individuals chose to enter our library without masks in the hopes of receiving equal treatment for themselves and their children.

Now for a question. Has anyone on the library board been out shopping in our community lately? I'm guessing that's a yes from all, but if not I'll tell you what I have observed. Most people wear masks but a handful do not. Those few who do not wear masks, go about their business just like all the other patrons do. At Meijer and Target, the store employees smile and greet their fellow unmasked humans politely, the same way they greet the masked patrons. They are not calling the police on them or becoming confrontational. They work to maintain a welcome and friendly environment for all, not just for some.

Sadly, throughout covid, my family has not been made to feel welcome at the St Charles library. When the books were being housed at Haines, in order to gain access, we were screened for fevers and asked to sanitize our hands. Even after doing these things to ensure safety, library employees followed my kids around the youth section asking them not to touch the books unless they were planning to check them out. As any person who has visited a library knows, part of the joy of choosing a book is sliding it out of its place on the shelf, looking at the cover, and flipping through the pages before making a decision. It was so awkward visiting this library and being followed around that we started going to the Geneva library instead. They did not follow my kids around telling them not to interact with the books.

When the new library opened, we decided to give it another try. Fortunately we don't have to have our temperatures taken and we are now allowed to touch even the books we might not decide to check out, but the mask enforcement has gotten out of control. I went into the library last week with my 11 year old daughter. She and I were out visiting relatives and on the way back made a spur of the moment decision to run in and grab a book we had waiting in the holds area. I had a mask in the car but she didn't. In the past we have asked at the desk for a mask if any of us were without, but because I knew it would be a quick in and out visit, I didn't think it was necessary to ask for one. However from the time it took us to walk in the front door to get to the holds section (less than one minute) we were stopped by 3 people asking her to put on a mask. 3 people approached us

in less than one minute! Wow. It felt a little bit like an ambush. One male employee even followed me to the self check and strongly encouraged me to use the drive up window in the future. I think, after this experience, I would rather use the Geneva library in the future.

People in our community want to feel welcomed and respected. We do not stand for discrimination even when it comes in the form of an unconstitutional government mandate. I ask that you encourage your employees to treat people with respect equally and with kindness equally. In the hopes of remaining an indivisible nation, we all have a role to play. Please do not let the mask issue divide our community further, please do not encourage discrimination, and please do not let the mask mandate and covid fear determine how your organization treats its visitors.

Thank you,

Lara Kristofer

Edith Craig

From: Kids Carlson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 3:10 PM
To: Board
Subject: Masks and safety

Our family was saddened to see the anti mask protests held at our beautiful library and scaring our wonderful library staff. We are so sorry you had to endure this.

Our family so very much appreciates the mask mandate at our library. Our youngest is immunocompromised so school is not a safe place for him at this time. Even with the mask mandate in the schools, there are simply too many hours indoors during a school day and week to ensure his safety. Therefore, his most educational outlet is our weekly outing to the library for story time. It is imperative that we keep the library safe for ALL patrons during this time of COVID. Please continue your mask mandate and do not bow down to the anti maskers on a political escapade. There are far too many patrons in our community that rely on the library to be a safe, masked place for various medical reasons.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Carlson and family
[REDACTED]
St. Charles, IL [REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Shannon Von Essen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 3:25 PM
To: Board
Subject: Library and Masks

Hello,

My family and I are lucky enough to use the STC library through their partnership with D303 schools. We go to the library at least once a week, and our three children love exploring the books in the children's section.

Since March 2020, our family has worked hard to stay healthy. Our children do not go places where masks will not be worn properly, which means they have not been inside Epic Air, Urban Air, or Bumblebee Cafe in nearly two years. They've only been to the movies once. There is only one place we go regularly-the STC library, because we know that they will be safe there without worry of people spreading COVID.

The library is such an important place to our family; it is a safe place for our children. Wearing a mask is a small price to pay so that children can focus on something other than this exhausting pandemic. The library has been a blessing for us, and we hope that it will continue to protect those of us who are vulnerable to COVID and can enjoy it without worry or concern.

Sincerely,
The Von Essen family

Edith Craig

From: Holly Orcutt [REDACTED]
Int: Saturday, January 22, 2022 3:27 PM
To: Board
Subject: support for masking at the library

To Whom it May Concern,

I was shocked and disturbed by the fact that you had to close the library due to ignorance and threats around the mask mandated. Public health rules are important and I hope you do not bend to the will of this very loud MINORITY of voices who bully our school boards and now our public library.

Also thanks to our library staff for persevering. They should not be threatened by these bullies.

Sincerely,

Library patron and St Charles Community Member
Holly Orcutt

Edith Craig

From: Jaime Hayes [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 3:29 PM
To: Board
Subject: Meeting this evening

Please send us the link for the virtual meeting.

Our family loves the St. Charles library! The staff has always been helpful, whether helping our child find something or making reservations for the meeting spaces. We support the St. Charles library implementing whatever safety procedures they deem necessary.

We must realize as a community that the person next to us may not have the same immune system we have been afforded. If they are a transplant recipient, it is pretty likely the Covid vaccine doesn't create a lasting immune response because of the medication they have to take to prevent rejection. This is just one example of many. The world is full of people with immunodeficiency. We should be a community that does all we can to ensure the most vulnerable can still safely utilize community resources. Be considerate of others. A mask is a temporary nuisance. Death is permanent.

Unfortunately, this issue has brought out the worst in people. We are not comfortable providing our name or address for fear that our family will become their next focus.

We are sorry you all have been put in the position to deal with an unnecessarily hostile environment. Please know that you all are greatly appreciated.

Edith Craig

From: Jennifer [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 3:32 PM
To: Board
Subject: In support of Masking

My name is Jennifer McClure and I live at [REDACTED] South Elgin, IL [REDACTED] within the St. Charles Public Library District. My cell phone is [REDACTED]

I am emailing in support of the masking requirements for the library staff and patrons. Also in favor of having a security officer posted to help protect staff and patrons so they can focus on literacy and not be harassed by persons who do not have protecting the public interest in mind. Those individuals who do not want to wear masks can avail themselves of the online library services.

Thank you for your time.

Jennifer
Jennifer L. McClure, PhD
--
Jennifer L. McClure, Ph.D.

Edith Craig

From: SCPL Site
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 3:33 PM
To: Board
Subject: Support of Library Policy

Submitted on Saturday, January 22, 2022 - 3:33pm Submitted by user:
Submitted values are:

Subject: Support of Library Policy

Name: Julie Misner

E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

Message: Hello. I am writing in support of current library mask policy and in support of the library staff. As a St. Charles School District teacher and resident, the library is an important part of our community. It saddens me that threats are being made. I hope that the St. Charles Police Department and Mayor's office can assist in apprehending those making threats. We support the library and hope you will reopen your doors.

Edith Craig

From: Kelly Stulgate
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 3:38 PM
To: Edith Craig; Board
Cc: Youth Services
Subject: To Be Read and Entered Into Record at Special Board Meeting

Dear Edith, Board Members and St. Charles Community:

As the department manager, I am writing on behalf of the Youth Services Department. The youth services department fosters imagination, growth, and empathy. The staff are creative, caring, and passionately dedicated to providing service to children and families. The collective work of the youth services team reaches so many families and creates lifelong learning opportunities that change people's lives for the better. Working in youth services, we are acutely aware of the needs of a wide variety of users. In the course of a day, we may serve an unvaccinated baby, a boosted middle schooler, a pregnant mother vaccination status unknown, or an immunocompromised unvaccinated grandparent. We also serve families feeling the greater effects of unemployment, food insufficiency, and homelessness. We owe them all a safe environment. The youth service department exists as a gateway to learning and literacy. The staff provides services inside the newly reimagined and renovated library, online, and in the community through outreach programs and community partnerships.

Our mission is not about refusing service to the community, but rather giving our best to families and children. The recent events are more than unfortunate. Staff, who were simply trying to do their jobs in upholding the library's policy, were verbally harassed, yelled at, had their personal space invaded, and on top of that, recorded in way that makes them seem so much less than what they truly are. Staff feel threatened by social media posts and their mental health has suffered. They feel the effects of the ongoing intimidation and it has caused them to fear coming in to work. They deserve better than this; they did not ask for this. Rules exist in civil societies for good reasons. It is my hope and desire that those who descended on the youth services department, violated the library policy mandated by the Governor, and interfered with the delivery of services to ALL patrons, would reconsider their behavior and strive to be the best examples and teachers of respect, humility, and personal responsibility. We cannot abandon our principles for the collective good because it is difficult or uncomfortable for some. Following state and county mandates for mask wearing is putting everyone's safety first. Actions such as these protests of mask-wearing policies compromise everyone's safety and disrupt staff's ability to provide materials and services to community members of ALL ages.

Sincerely,

Kelly Stulgate
Youth Services Manager
St. Charles Public Library
(630) 584-0076 x263
kstulgate@scpld.org

PLEASE NOTE: PURSUANT TO ILLINOIS STATE LAW, E-MAIL COMMUNICATION TO AND FROM THIS ADDRESS MAY BE SUBJECT TO PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.

Edith Craig

From: Doug Burman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 3:41 PM
To: Board
Subject: support for SC Public library staff and masks

I was outraged to hear of the recent incident at St. Charles Public library involving residents refusing to wear a mask inside the library and refusing to leave. This is outrageous, particularly in the middle of a pandemic, inconsiderate of the welfare of others and ignorant of science.

The staff of St. Charles library has been extraordinary in their service to our community and deserve better than this. I strongly support any measure that will ensure their safety and well-being.

A patron,

Douglas D. Burman

[REDACTED]
St. Charles, IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Julie Fothergill [REDACTED]
Int: Saturday, January 22, 2022 3:45 PM
To: Board
Subject: In support of our Library

I am deeply disappointed in the members of our community who have made the library an unsafe place for the people who work there and the visitors who enjoy the library's amazing services. Our library is a treasure. It should be a safe place for the community to visit, enjoy, learn and grow. I fully support the library's decision to close until the safety of staff and the community can be ensured. The community members who choose not to wear masks should use the library's virtual services. Library staff and patrons should be able to safely enjoy this public space without worrying about their safety. Thank you library staff for all that you do to make our library such an amazing place. You are appreciated!

Julie Fothergill
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Jane Fanslow [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 3:48 PM
To: Board
Subject: Masks and the Library

My name is Jane Fanslow

[REDACTED] Saint Charles, IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I am so sorry that a group of entirely selfish people went to the library with the sole intention of causing trouble. Those of us with any common sense realize that if the employees had to call the police, it's not a peaceful protest. They felt threatened. And simply because the officers didn't make any arrests, doesn't mean they're on a "side."

We are walking distance from the library, and my daughter loves to study there. And although vaccinated & she wears a mask to protect other people, she breathes the same air as everyone in the library. Unfortunately, that includes inconsiderate people who don't wear masks or wear them appropriately. Those same people may or may not be vaccinated for all we know. Which means they could be spreading Covid.

My household, who helps care for an elderly parent with lung cancer and my daughter with lung and heart issues should not have to avoid the public library because of a group of self-centered people.

When you actually live in society, sometimes you need to do what is appropriate for the entire people.

Thank you.

From: Carla Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 3:55 PM
To: Board
Subject: Comments - Agenda Items

Good evening, my name is Carla Williams, and I am the Staff Representative for AFSCME Council 31, the union representing St. Charles Public Library staff. We believe staff deserve to work in a safe environment, free from harassment. We call upon the library board and library management to implement proper safety and security protocols, including an effective procedure for handling protestors who refuse to wear masks without risking the health or safety of library staff and patrons.

Prior to Tuesday's protest, staff members and our union contacted Library management about the threatened action. Our concerns were not taken seriously. On Tuesday, January 18th over thirty (30) protestors (adults and children) entered the library and refused to wear a mask. The protestors invaded staff and patrons' personal space. After the St. Charles police arrived and the protestors refused to comply and leave, both the police and Library management effectively abandoned impacted staff to deal with the protestors with little to no support for over an hour. Patrons were not warned protestors were in the building. At no point during the protest was the building temporarily closed. In fact, an email was sent to staff claiming that the situation was defused while there were still protestors in the building. As they were leaving, the protestors threatened that they would be back. As promised, several of the protestors again entered the library refusing to wear a mask two days later. Additionally, there were threatening posts and threatening communications directed at library staff.

We appreciate that the Library ultimately made the decision to temporarily close the library for walk-in services, but staff still feel unsafe and a number of patrons have expressed concerns about safety.

We are calling on the Library Board to take the following actions:

- Institute safety procedures such as temporarily closing the library in response to future demonstrations/protests; mandatory communications to all staff, regardless of exemption status.
- No staff member should be required to interact with protestors without a member of Library management present.
- Enforce the Library's Photography, Security Camera and Other Recording Devices policy.
- Assign security to the front door during open hours and survey departments with public service desks on what is a safe staffing level.
- Ban all members of the public who participated in the January 18th and 20th protests and who sent threatening communications to the library.
- Provide COVID testing for all staff on work time who worked on January 18th and 20th during the hours that the protestors were in the building.
- Purchase NIOSH approved KN95 and N95 masks for staff from a manufacturer approved by the CDC.
- Provide COVID Sick Time for all staff.

Sincerely,
AFSCME SCPL members
205 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 2100
Chicago IL 60601
312-657-7027

Edith Craig

From: Karen Nolan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 3:58 PM
To: Board
Subject: Mask policy

I am a 36 year resident and frequently use the services of the ST. Charles Public library. Although I have worn a face covering when I visit the library, at this point in time, I feel that one should have a choice, since it is not a law to have to wear a face covering. I would especially request that all parents be permitted the choice as to whether their child should have to wear a face covering or not.

If any of the library staff have received threats of bodily harm, the individuals making the threats should be reported to the police and dealt with accordingly. By not allowing us access to visit the library, we are being punished for the unruly and/or illegal acts of a few.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my opinion,

Karen Nolan

Edith Craig

From: Richard Escalante [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 3:58 PM
To: Board
Subject: Discussion on Enforcement of Library Policies

St. Charles Library Board of Trustees,

I am saddened to read in the Daily Herald that the library closed to in-person visits after receiving threats to staff members for enforcing the library's mask policy. A state mandated policy. No library staff member should have to fear for their safety because they are enforcing library rules.

I ask the Library Board to take all steps necessary to ensure the safety of our library staff. I also ask the Library Board to continue to enforce the mask mandate. The mask mandate is based on sound science and is for the safety of all users and employees of the library. Without enforcement of the mandate I will not feel safe in the library. Individuals who do not wear masks in the library simply because they do not want to wear a mask or as a form of protest are endangering others. To change a policy because of threats is giving in to bullies.

Please keep the library, its employees, and patrons safe and do not give in to threats.

Richard Escalante
[REDACTED]

St. Charles, il
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Catherine Norris [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 4:01 PM
To: Board
Subject: Comment for the St. Charles Public Library Board

I am saddened by the division that masks have created in our country. I am even more disappointed that threats from members of the St. Charles community have been focused on the St. Charles Public Library and staff. I appreciate their efforts to look out for me and my health. While rules for children can generate lots of passion the library seems to be attempting to make decisions for the good of all not just individuals. I am supportive of the library staff doing what they feel is best to keep all their patrons safe. Besides the fact that a mask mandate is in keeping with the State of Illinois policy at this time.

Cathy Norris
[REDACTED]
St. Charles, IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Melissa Baffa [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 4:04 PM
To: Board
Subject: 1/22 Board of Trustees Special Meeting

To The Board of Trustees-

I'd like to receive the link to attend this evening's meeting. My information is below in addition to comments for the board meeting. I am a current SCPL card holder.

Melissa Baffa
[REDACTED]
Wayne, IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Simply put, this whole mask debate is completely subjective and pointless. The library is not policing what type of mask (cloth vs. the CDC recommended N95) tax paying citizens wear or policing a 6 foot distancing rule. The guidelines for maintaining public health and safety is a constant moving target, highly questionable, and again, subjective. The library is a public facility and should not discriminate, or close down due to a difference in opinion.

I think one thing everyone can agree on, is that every citizen has concerns for their health & safety, regardless of which side of this debate they fall on. Everyone has the freedom to make those choices for themselves at this point.

Public libraries are centers for bringing community together, engagement in expansion of thought, and learning institutions. Referencing your own "Library Bill of Rights" as listed on your website, is this mask policy and other covid mitigations, really a battle worth fighting your own community for?

Thank you for your time.
Melissa Baffa & Family

Edith Craig

From: Allison earl [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 4:11 PM
To: Board
Subject: Mask Discrimination

Dear Board Members of the St. Charles Public Library,

I want to voice my disappointment in the St. Charles Library and your mask policy. There are many reasons people can not wear a mask: disabilities, medical, sexual trauma or convictions. Whatever the reason it is non of your business to know anymore then it's your business to know my religion or heritage.

We moved to St. Charles a year ago and have not been able to visit due to your policy. As a homeschool family we are used to visiting the library almost wkly. My 3 kids often ask when they can go back to the library. They really miss it. The drive up does not provide the inspiration and creativity a visit to your shelves, displays, etc encourage.

Calling the police on children is disgusting. It's the opposite of what I want my children to think the police are for. I also don't want my children scared of the Library.

I don't understand how you don't recognize this as discrimination and segregation. It's not like no shoes, no shirt, no service. It's a piece of paper or cotton that we went without for generations and serviced people just fine.

Sincerely,
Allison Earl
St. Charles Resident and Parent

Sent from my iPhone

Edith Craig

From: Kim Eskeli [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 4:11 PM
To: Board
Cc: Chad Eskeli
Subject: St. Charles Library Staff

Dear St. Charles Library Board of Trustees:

As residents and frequent visitors of the St. Charles Library, we were very disheartened to read about the threats and harassment the library staff has received due to the mask mandate policy. We fully support the library staff and would like them to know how valued they are within the community. The St. Charles Library staff go above and beyond to help, and the library has been a lifeline to our family, especially over the last two years. We appreciate all the staff and are very grateful for them!

Respectfully,

Chad Eskeli- St. Charles Resident, Library Patron

Kimberly Eskeli- St. Charles Resident, Library Patron

Connor Eskeli- St. Charles Resident, Library Patron

Cassandra Eskeli- St. Charles Resident, Library Patron

Edith Craig

From: [REDACTED]
Int: Saturday, January 22, 2022 4:20 PM
To: Board
Subject: In Opposition To The Mask Requirement at the St. Charles Public Library

To whom it may concern,

Let it be known that I, as tax paying 21-year citizen of Saint Charles, staunchly oppose the requirement to where a mask in The Saint Charles Public Library. Like in so many other ways it should be up to the member to make that choice, first based on the freedoms granted us in the United States of America, as well as, their personal circumstances and/or medical condition. Those who fear the SARS-CoV-2 virus, feel their health is at risk or have medical conditions that may require them to wear a mask are **FREE** to do so – because they, too, have the freedom to make that choice and not be forced to take it off.

From another perspective tax paying library members from Saint Charles and surrounding areas have just as much right to say those who have medical conditions or fear the SARS-CoV-2 virus should stay home, much in the same way the Library is telling members they must wear a mask. The difference is that those who come into the library DON'T tell employees or other members that they should do so. No one tells them they should take their mask off and that is because their choice is respected.

NO MASK MANDATE at the Saint Charles Public Library!!

Respectfully,

John C. Tarzynski

[REDACTED]
Saint Charles, IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 4:27 PM
To: Board
Subject: Comment re: Mask Policy Incident

I would like to comment on the situation that occurred at the library regarding anti-mask patrons, however, I am not comfortable making my name, address and phone number public for fear of retaliation by anti-mask zealots. I live in St. Charles and given the response by the St. Charles Police dept, I have no confidence that they would protect me in the case of retaliation.

There are two issues here. 1. People defying the library's mask policy, and 2. What it means to civil discourse when the police take sides on an issue. This should be a concern for everyone living in our community.

The STC Police mission statement is "to protect and serve our community with respect and a commitment to excellence." The library staff felt threatened enough to call the police and the STC police did nothing to disperse the protestors occupying the library. Is this an example of their mission statement in action? Or is it simply inaction? Did the police use de-escalation techniques to diffuse the situation? Viral videos and social media claim that the police told protestors that they "agreed with" and let them occupy the library un-masked. Did this help build trust in fair and impartial justice in our community? Did this serve the library staff who called the police because they felt threatened?

I hesitate to speak up for fear of retaliation or harassment by partisan ideologues. Also if I was targeted with harassment, I now know that the STC Police have set precedent that they will not prevent others from harassing me if the police agree with the harassers ideology. I fear the police will not serve and protect me because they feel that they can pick and choose which laws, or guidelines they agree with and want to enforce. The City of St Charles police feel that they can discriminate their law enforcement. Do the police only enforce the laws for people with whom they agree? What if the officer is Catholic and I am Lutheran, or atheist? What if I am wearing a Blue Lives Matter shirt? Or a Black Lives Matter shirt? What if I voted for a different politician than they did?

The City of St Charles municipal buildings, offices and public meetings require masks to be worn by all individuals. The St. Charles Police department has signs on their doors requiring people to wear masks in the

building. Yet they did not enforce this policy when the library called for assistance. What would the city do if an anti-mask group refused to comply with this request in the city municipal building or police station? If I refused to comply, would I be arrested? If so, under what charges would I be arrested? Why do those charges not apply to the protestors who refused to comply with the library's mask requirements?

There are enforceable laws that police can and do use to handle hostile groups if they are intimidating others, or being disruptive: Loitering (city code 09.21.010), disorderly conduct (City Code 9.20.010), disturbing the peace, and trespassing (city code 9.44.040) as well as City code 8.12.030 (spreading contagion). City code 8.04.080 (Acts endangering public health) states that it is unlawful to commit or do any act which endangers the public health. Refusing to wear a mask during the COVID pandemic endangers public health. This is a fact, not an opinion.

The library has signage on the doors informing patrons of the mask policy. If a customer doesn't wear a mask but still enters the business after seeing the signage, by most people's definition that shows intent -- you read a sign and you didn't obey the sign. In most states, that is criminal trespass.

Their intent was not just to use library services and exercise their choice not to wear a mask. There are several options available for patrons to use the library without violating library masking requests, by using the drive up window and online services. This was a large organized group who intentionally refused to comply and insisted on occupying the library and defy the mask requirements to make a statement. Their intent was intimidation. I am not inferring this intent or reading minds; Social media posts confirm that this was their intent.

Disturbing the peace and disorderly conduct do not have to be loud, physically violent activities in order for them to be harassment. The anti-maskers may be fairly quiet yet still threaten others by their intimidating behavior. How do we know that they were intimidating? Because the library staff felt compelled to call the police. The burden of proof should not fall on the victims. That's like saying that unwanted sexual comments are not sexual harassment if the person saying them says they didn't mean them to be offensive. If the recipient finds it offensive or unwanted that is enough proof. If the library staff felt threatened enough to call the police that is proof enough.

Do the anti-maskers get to decide if they believe COVID and wearing a mask are real or not? Sure they do. But do they also have the privilege to decide which laws they believe in and will obey? Do they have the privilege

to endanger other people with your decisions? Do I have that privilege too? What about the library employees, what rights do they have?

Because of the actions of a handful of selfish, privileged people, the library is now closed to all in-person activities. We cannot have nice things in society if people cannot be civil and think about others. And because the St Charles Police choose to take sides when enforcing the peace, we cannot count on them to serve and protect us.

My name is John Q. Public and I live in St. Charles.

Edith Craig

From: Bob Haibeck [REDACTED]
Int: Saturday, January 22, 2022 4:29 PM
To: Board
Subject: Library Closing

Congrats on closing and making front page news because you're mask nazis! You know there's no penalty for anyone who doesn't wear a face covering indoors, right? The vast majority of bars and restaurants don't enforce it since there are vaccines and the new strain is basically just a cold. You should really just look the other way like everyone else, it'll make your life easier. Threats are free speech, so don't expect that to stop anytime soon. I personally never do, and have been to a Jimmy Johns and an Italian deli with police waiting in line while not wearing a face covering. Neither the employees or police cared, because it's not a law just some nonsense that can't be enforced. So don't expect any help from the police.

Edith Craig

From: Tammy Tarzynski [REDACTED]
Int: Saturday, January 22, 2022 4:31 PM
To: Board
Subject: Opposed to Mask Requirement At The Saint Charles Public Library

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to state that I am **strongly opposed** to any requirement to wear masks at the St. Charles Public Library. Wearing masks has been shown to essentially be ineffective and even physically and psychology damaging, especially to children who are a large part of those who frequent the building. Those who wish to wear a mask are free to do so but a requirement for all to do so is overreach. As a tax paying citizen and resident of Saint Charles for 21 years now I **cannot over state my opposition to any requirement to wear a mask in the St. Charles Public Library.**

I fully support to strike down the requirement of wearing a mask at any time when inside the St. Charles Public Library.

Sincerely,

Tammy L. Tarzynski
[REDACTED]
Saint Charles, IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Joey Milano [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 4:33 PM
To: Board
Subject: Please uphold your mask requirements.

Hello,

I am writing to show support of the current masking policy at the St Charles library, (i.e. requiring them of all patrons, regardless of vaccination status) after having seen a multitude of social media posts calling for residents to "flood your emails, to raise their voices and resist" with eerily similar energy to that of January 6th. So instead, I want to thank you for upholding your mask requirements even when unpopular to some.

First, I am deeply saddened that this is even an issue. I would hope that two years into a global pandemic, people would find it within themselves to come together to find solutions to move forward together. But instead, people are so worn down that they are turning against one another. Those who are choosing to believe that covid isn't a real danger, or that masks are either ineffective or dangerous, are doing just that... choosing to believe something for their own comforts. They are choosing their own needs, over the needs of their community. There is plenty of scientific data that shows how wearing a mask lowers the risk of contracting covid. Unfortunately, that scientific data will not sway people's decisions when they have already convinced themselves otherwise. So if they can make a choice on what to believe, those same people can make a choice on where they spend their time (And choose to not go to library)

I live with multiple auto-immune diseases that leave me in the high-risk category. So I have had to alter much of my life throughout these last two years. Throughout this pandemic, I have chosen to not go to our favorite coffee shop because they don't require their baristas or patrons to mask. I have altered when/how I grocery shop because of people refusing to comply and needing to limit my exposure. And especially in the winter, I have had to choose to not spend time with those who are unvaccinated because we can't be outside with proper ventilation. It has been really nice knowing that my local library was a place that not only required but did their best to enforce masking.

The last thing I want to add is this :: a library is a vital pillar to a community. It is a safe haven to all who enter. I think of all the kids who need access to computers for their homework. I think of those who need to come in from the cold for a couple hours a day. I think of the morning activities for toddlers that give momma's a community. And I think of all that knowledge and wisdom within all those pages of books, waiting to teach us, entertain us, heal us, waiting to open our hearts and minds to new ideas and possibilities.

Please continue to require masks so that all who enter may be safe.

Thank You

Joey

Please do not read my name/ppi into any record::

Joey Havenner
[REDACTED] St Charles, IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 4:34 PM
To: Board
Subject: Library Mask Mandate

My family and I support the Library, the Library Staff and their policies.. In Our Country mandates are usually only made in the interest of public health. These are how our communities and our society can stay safe. There are many examples over the many decades. Things ARE complex and not black and white so that makes it very difficult. But.... It's aggravating to me when there's a once in 100 year pandemic and people can't see the need for strong guidelines! People have the choice NOT to attend or visit places where the safety rules have been outlined. It's not true that these people don't have a choice.

Dr Tony Moretti
St Charles, IL
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 4:34 PM
To: Board
Subject: SCPLD Special Board Meeting 1/22/2022

Members of the Board,

I am Joseph Olsen and reside at [REDACTED] Bartlett, Illinois.

I agree with the decision to close physical access to the Library when the public safety of both staff and patrons is at risk because of the selfish and threatening actions of a few.

When the Board of the Bartlett Public Library District met onsite on Monday, January 17, 2022, the Board President, Board Secretary and another Trustee when reminded by me, a Trustee, that masks were required within the Library ignored the reminder and did not don masks.

It is a difficult situation when those who vote to comply with public policy then ignore it.

Don't give your patrons an opening to believe they can do so because you send the wrong message and then others will do as you do and not as you say.

Thank you.

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

Edith Craig

From: Luann Zanzola [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 4:35 PM
To: Board
Subject: Mask threats

Dear Library Board,

It is incredible to me that the St. Charles Public Library, a community treasure for all our town's residents, especially our children, is forced to close to protect its staff and facilities from threats over state COVID mask policies. This is outrageous behavior!

While no one likes wearing a mask, doing so provides some protection against this lethal virus: 1,000 Kane County deaths last week alone! Why is it so hard for people to understand and accept such a simple public health measure?

And to resort to threats of violence against the library staff simply because they follow current state law is illegal AND shameful.

The people who are responsible for these threats should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

My thanks to the library staff for keeping us all safe.

Luann Zanzola
St. Charles resident for 31 years

Sent from my iPhone

Edith Craig

From: Christen Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 4:39 PM
To: Board
Subject: Support of Masking Mandate

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a resident and early childhood educator in St Charles and also a mother to three children in District 303. I am writing to you to ask that you continue to implement the mask mandate issued by Governor Pritzker.

The library is more than a facility. It is a place of learning and planting seeds of a love of reading, learning and engaging with literature and books. The safety and sanctity of the St. Charles library, so beautifully restored this last year, is being threatened by an organized group of people that are not representative of this community or its values.

I stand with you and your staff, supporting a continued mandate of masks, so that the larger percentage of the community here who understand the value of protecting one's fellow citizen for a greater good, and helping a community thrive in safety and health, can continue to utilize the library's beauty and resources in its fullest and most abundant capacity that it was designed for.

Please stand firm in your dedication to making our community safe. Please stand firm in pushing the priority of safety and a welcoming environment where those who walk into the doors of the St. Charles Library can feel they are protected by the threats of the tumultuous pandemic and its variants. Do not let a group whose stance is based on misrepresented, misguided and hypocritical agendas, and misinformation, deter you as a board from doing the right thing.

On Thursday, I was witness to the deplorable actions and shameful behavior of a woman from the AWAKE group when I was checking out books in the children's section for my preschool classroom. It was clear her intent was not to "enjoy the library" as she and others who have attacked the library this week have claimed in their social media outlets. She was there to intimidate the staff, draw attention to her political positions and make false statements and accusations while doing so filming for attention and antics.

I ask that you recognize not the antics and threats of those abusing their freedoms, but those of us... the majority of us in this community, whose freedoms to health and safety are threatened by them.

Please pass along my gratitude to the men and women on the staff of the STC Library, whose professionalism, courage and tenacity this week made them front line heroes in the eyes of my family and our community. Mad respect fo them.

Warmly,
Chrissy Miller

Edith Craig

From: Brian Havenner [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 4:42 PM
To: Board
Subject: Support the current mask policy

Hi there,

I just want to share my support for the current mask requirement at the STC library. Unfortunately the idea of mask efficacy is not based on scientific reality but it's instead been a partisan issue. Please continue to enforce wearing masks as this is one of the only public places where masks are actually enforced in our community.

Best,

Brian Havenner
[REDACTED]

St Charles, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent on the run, please excuse typos.

Edith Craig

From: Stephanie Daneve [REDACTED]
Int: Saturday, January 22, 2022 4:45 PM
To: Board
Subject: ATTN TO READ FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Dear Board,

I timed myself reading my comment and comes out to under 2 minutes. Please read my full public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT STARTS:

As a community member I agree with our Library Board that all Patrons need to follow all laws and local mandates when getting services and enjoying public spaces at St Charles Public Library. Your current requirement is not found online under library policies but under an August news release titled "Library Mask Requirements". That news release states the "[St Charles Public Library] is following the recommended guidelines." The local guideline cited is: "[Kane County Health Department Reminds Businesses and Residents of Mask Mandate.](#)" That reminder includes a copy "[FAQ on Face Covering and Vaccine Requirements](#)" which is an Illinois Department Public Health 8 page document which covers all 4 exemptions in detail. The executive order and FAQ were released both on Sept 3 2021

The 4 groups that are exempt are: individuals under the age of 2, have a disability preventing safe mask wearing, medical intolerant to face covering, and free exercise of religion.

St Charles Public Library offers alternative services in the form of curbside pick up. Patrons *might consider* utilizing alternative services, however per "[FAQ on Face Covering and Vaccine Requirements](#)" document, alternative services are recommendations not requirements for individuals with exemptions. "Individuals and businesses *might consider* the following alternatives" and then states four suggested alternatives. Preceding that sentence is "Persons who cannot medically tolerate a face covering are exempt from the Order" The FAQ document makes no mention of limits or mention of safety or undue hardships created by individuals with exemption. Please add all 4 exemptions to St Charles Public Library "Library Mask Requirements."

During my next visit to St Charles Public Library to utilize our public space and access materials, I will exercise my sincerely held religious belief object to the face covering requirement, I will be exempt per [FAQ on Face Covering and Vaccine](#)

Requirements document, and I do not wish to be discriminated and/or segregated based on my religion per 42 USC 2000a.

Edith Craig

From: Lisa DeRosa [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 4:46 PM
To: Edith Craig
Subject: Re: Public Comment
Attachments: ST CHARLES CHAIR LETTER.pdf

Sincerely,
Lisa Raphael

On Jan 22, 2022, at 4:34 PM, Edith Craig <ecraig@scpld.org> wrote:

Hello,

Due to the number of interested participants, we are using a different platform and link to the meeting that will allow for a greater number of people.

We truly apologize for the inconvenience but we want to make sure everyone is able to attend. Please use this link or phone number to join the meeting. The meeting will be recorded and then available on our Library YouTube channel shortly thereafter.

Topic: Special Board Meeting

Time: Jan 22, 2022 05:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87593846423?pwd=ZFdzRjRmdzVTWGNvcEp1YUhwU1JPQT09>

Meeting ID: 875 9384 6423

Passcode: 021286

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,87593846423# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,87593846423# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 875 9384 6423

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/keIBF2VE5s>

Edith Craig

From: Vivian Lea Carlen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 4:47 PM
To: Board
Subject: support for library staff

I was totally outraged to hear of the recent incident at St. Charles Public library involving residents refusing to wear a mask inside the library and refusing to leave!

This is so blatantly outrageous, particularly in the middle of a pandemic, and very inconsiderate of the welfare of others and ignorant of proven science.

The staff of St. Charles library has been extraordinary in their service to our community. They deserve so much better than this.

I strongly support any measure that will ensure their safety and well-being, and a continuation of the wonderful service they provide.

Sincerely,

Vivian L. Carlen

[REDACTED]
St. Charles, IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Allison earl [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 4:50 PM
To: Allison earl
Cc: Board
Subject: Re: Mask Discrimination

My address is:

[REDACTED] Saint Charles IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 22, 2022, at 4:11 PM, Allison earl [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Board Members of the St. Charles Public Library,

I want to voice my disappointment in the St. Charles Library and your mask policy. There are many reasons people can not wear a mask: disabilities, medical, sexual trauma or convictions. Whatever the reason it is non of your business to know anymore then it's your business to know my religion or heritage.

We moved to St. Charles a year ago and have not been able to visit due to your policy. As a homeschool family we are used to visiting the library almost wkly. My 3 kids often ask when they can go back to the library. They really miss it. The drive up does not provide the inspiration and creativity a visit to your shelves, displays, etc encourage.

Calling the police on children is disgusting. It's the opposite of what I want my children to think the police are for. I also don't want my children scared of the Library.

I don't understand how you don't recognize this as discrimination and segregation. It's not like no shoes, no shirt, no service. It's a piece of paper or cotton that we went without for generations and serviced people just fine.

Sincerely,
Allison Earl
St. Charles Resident and Parent

Sent from my iPhone

Edith Craig

From: Beth Schwingel [REDACTED]
Int: Saturday, January 22, 2022 4:56 PM
To: Board
Subject: Library support

Dear board members,

I am saddened and angered by the behavior of agitators from both inside and outside our community who are threatening the health and well-being of staff and community members by refusing to wear masks in accordance with state health mandates. Now it seems these agitators are actually making threats against the hard-working library staff that shows up every day in service of our community, which is unacceptable and unlawful.

While I will miss the opportunity to visit the library in person, I support the decision to close the library until the safety of staff and patrons can be ensured.

Sincerely,
Beth Schwingel
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Edith Craig

From: Alison Thoms [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 4:57 PM
To: Board
Subject: Pro masks

I've just read the article on patch regarding what's happening with threats to our library. I apologize on behalf of ridiculous citizens of our town. Please know that many of us support the mask mandate and support the library. Please continue to have citizens wear masks and be safe.

-Alison Thoms

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Edith Craig

From: Jessica Curtis [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2022 5:07 PM
To: Board
Subject: Comment for meeting

I'm deeply saddened to learn that there are those in our community who are willing to put the lives of others at risk in order to make what they believe is a political point. Refusing to abide by rules a building maintains - not only because it is mandated but because science supports it to keep us all as safe as possible - is in no way discrimination. Pretending that it is so is disingenuous.

This "protest" not only put others at risk but actually now deprives our community of the resource you claimed you didn't want to be kept from. (And you were never kept from it, you merely needed to follow the same protocols as the rest of the entire world.) When a situation isn't going the way you want, you should not react by deliberately ruining things for everyone else. The protest by the members of Awake (?) is the most selfish, childish act of contempt I've seen in St. Charles on a long while. I'm proud of the library for their actions, disappointed in the inaction of the law enforcement, and utterly disgusted by anyone who associates with that protest group. Shame on them.

Sent from my iPhone