

Recv 11/1/13



City of Tualatin

Patron Opinion of Library Materials

Tualatin Public Library supports the First Amendment of the US Constitution, confirms the ideals of democracy, and welcomes the free expression from local residents concerning library materials.

Requests to remove or reassign materials from the Tualatin Public Library collection shall be considered within the context of the principles affirmed in the Tualatin Public Library Collection Development Policy.

Name: Judi Teters Telephone: 503-575-1956
 Representing: myself, at the moment Email: jteters_2000@yahoo.com
 Address: 4811 S.E. Wanda Ct. City: Milwaukie State: OR Zip: 97267
 Title: Cosmopolitan Mag. Format: Book Magazine DVD CD Other
 Author: _____ Year Published/Released: - monthly

- 1) What is your objection to the material? Please cite page numbers or minutes: This publication monthly includes a pornographic "how to" guide available for teens and young girls (In fact by having it in your reading section any child has access to it. If an adult were to give this material to a young person, they could be arrested for sexual misconduct or worse. Please turn page. →
- 2) Did you read/view/listen to the entire work? Don't have to - titles of topics says it all!
- 3) Do you believe that if the subject were handled differently it would be acceptable? No -

4) How do you suggest the Library handle this item?

- a. Move it to another section of the Library
- b. Remove it from the Library
- c. Provide materials that balance the perspective of the work
- d. Other: _____

Thank you for your concern. You will receive a written response from the Library Manager within 30 days.

A few of recent articles shown on their cover are:

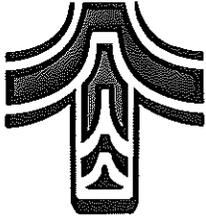
His Best Sex Ever - Guys describe the mind blowing moves they can't stop thinking about.

Too Naughty to say Here - But you have to try this sex trick.

12 Kinky quickies ... grab him and get it on.

The sexy Power issue ... get what you want in bed, at work, in life!

And we wonder why we have a serious problem with pornography and how it affects people when young people have access to it, especially.



City of Tualatin

www.ci.tualatin.or.us

November 21, 2013

Judi Teters
4811 SE Wanda Ct
Milwaukie OR 97267

Dear Ms. Teters,

You recently contacted the Library with concerns about a magazine in our collection, *Cosmopolitan*. You were concerned about the magazine's "sexually suggestive" content and the ease with which children or teenagers could access the magazine, because of its display within our adult magazine reading area. The Library's material selection committee has reviewed your request to remove *Cosmopolitan* magazine from the Tualatin Library's collection. We examined several issues of the magazine, conducted research about the magazine, and looked at data about its usage.

In the Patron Opinion of Library Materials form you submitted, you referenced several articles advertised on the cover of recent issues: "His Best Sex Ever – Guys describe the mind-blowing moves they can't stop thinking about," "Too Naughty to Say Here – But you have to try this sex trick," and "12 Kinky Quickies... grab him and get it on." I agree, those articles discuss adult topics, sometimes using frank language. However, when I read through these articles, it was clear to me that they were designed to inform and offer advice to women in their relationships, and not to titillate. The articles often include insight from sexologists and other health professionals, in addition to sharing comments and tips from the magazine's readers.

Cosmopolitan is marketed to women ages 18 through 50 and is the bestselling magazine in its area of the magazine market, publishing in 35 languages and 64 international editions. The reference guide *Magazines for Libraries* describes it as "the young career woman's lifestyle guide on fashion and beauty; health and fitness; popular culture and entertainment; and relationships and romance," with "candid columns, articles, and surveys [that] discuss modern sexual relationships." This resource, designed to provide reviews and recommendations on magazines for librarians, rates *Cosmopolitan* as "highly recommended for academic and public libraries." The magazine has been a popular title in our Library's adult magazine collection for several years, enjoying higher-than-average usage compared to other monthly magazines.

The selection committee and I understand your concerns about young girls or teens having access to the adult topics discussed in this magazine, but we disagree that removing it from the Library's collection is the right action to take. Although articles offering candid sexual advice are likely to offend some of our Library's users, there are others who do want to improve the quality of their sexual relationships or are interested in the fashion, lifestyle, and other topics covered by the magazine. We believe that we have

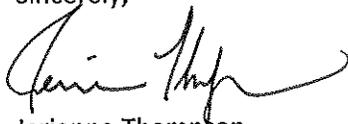
many users who expect to see popular magazines such as *Cosmopolitan* in our collection. For these reasons, the committee recommended and I concurred that we should keep *Cosmopolitan* magazine in our collection.

In your original email to the Library, you said "I've always considered the public library a family-friendly place to have children enjoy the gift of reading." That certainly is a part of our mission, and we do want our Library to be a welcoming place for children and teenagers. But it is also a part of our mission to serve the recreational and informational needs of adults. As a parent of a young child, I am sensitive to the issues you raise about this magazine and the frequency with which the magazine advertises sexual topics on the cover. For that reason, we have adjusted our magazine collection so that *Cosmopolitan* is no longer displayed on a low shelf, where it was at the eye-level of children who might visit the adult magazine reading area. The magazine is now displayed on the top shelf instead.

I truly believe that individuals should decide for themselves what items within the library's collection are appropriate for them or their family, and that it is the job of the library to provide access to materials, not to restrict them. In today's information age with the proliferation of media, I know it can be a challenge for a parent – or a grandparent – to shield children from topics beyond their maturity level. It is, however, a basic tenet of public libraries that it is the responsibility of a child's family, and not librarians, to monitor, guide, or direct what a child may access at the library.

I am heartened by your involvement in your family's reading, and we appreciate you bringing your grandchildren to our Library. Thank you for caring about what our Library offers to the Tualatin community. As I stated in my previous letter, if you are not satisfied with the decision reached by the material selection committee and me, you may appeal directly to the Tualatin Library Advisory Committee. This committee next meets on Tuesday, December 3, at 6:30 pm. Should you wish to discuss this matter with them, please notify me at least one week in advance of the meeting, so I can place you on the meeting agenda.

Sincerely,



Jerianne Thompson
Interim Library Manager
Public Services Supervisor

c: Selection Committee, Library Advisory Committee