



**Agenda Item B.2
PRESENTATION
Meeting Date: May 2, 2022**

TO: Library Advisory Commission
FROM: Allison Gray, Library Director
SUBJECT: Goleta Valley Library, First Amendment Audits

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a presentation on First Amendment Audits by Library Director Allison Gray.

BACKGROUND:

In the past two years, the number of self-appointed First Amendment Auditors that have tested public libraries has greatly increased.

DISCUSSION:

There will be a presentation on these audits as well as discussion on a possible policy to prepare the Goleta and Santa Ynez Libraries should an audit occur.

Review By:

Allison Gray
Library Director

Approved By:

Jaime A. Valdez
Neighborhood Services Director

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Goleta Valley Library, First Amendment Audits PowerPoint Presentation

Attachment 1

Goleta Valley Library, Director's First Amendment Audits PowerPoint Presentation

First Amendment Audits

Library Advisory Commission
May 2, 2022

Presentation by:
Allison Gray, Director
Library Department



First Amendment Auditing is an American social movement, as activism and citizen journalism that tests constitutional rights, in particular, the right to photograph and video record in a public place. Auditors believe that the movement promotes transparency and open government.

Some libraries have had individuals come in with their phones filming staff and “auditing” the library’s policies and procedures, trying to incite staff to be upset and say something argumentative or emotional that would make for a good social media video to cause trouble. This has not happened to any of the libraries in the surrounding area but it’s good to be prepared just in case.

Auditors will say the library is a public place and therefore it is his/her right to film there. In actuality, public libraries are government entities, and we are limited public forums. Therefore, we have the right to have certain time, place and manner restrictions. Libraries can limit behavior or speech within that forum.

Staff members never want to allow one of these people to provoke them into getting upset or saying things that the auditors can use against the library. Staff only cite accurate policy information. Auditors are sometimes trying to provoke a response that they can use to make a viral video.

Right now, there is no policy that addresses filming in the Goleta and Santa Ynez Libraries. Because our users have a general expectation of confidentiality and freedom from harassment it may be time to consider creating a policy on filming in the library.

Possible Topics

1. Allowing filming as long as it is not disruptive?
2. What about filming children (in particular, their faces)?
3. Can library staff film programs and attendees in the library?
4. Should advance permission be required?
5. Can filmmakers disrupt staff at work?

Possible Topics

6. Who should discuss library policies with auditors?
7. Should staff intervene if they see someone filming?
 - a. What if the person is filming what a computer user is looking at online?