I'd like to begin by thanking the Library Advisory Commission and Library Director, Allison Gray, for the opportunity to speak at this meeting.

My name is Roman Baratiak and I am a resident in the City of Goleta. I recently retired from the UCSB Arts & Lectures Program where I was the Associate Director. For 40 years I curated the public lectures program which brought hundreds of distinguished fiction and non-fiction authors, academics, scientists, and national and international luminaries to our community. I'm an impassioned supporter of public libraries and the vital role they play in building community and advancing human knowledge and intellectual curiosity. I also care deeply about free speech and open dialogue that champions, recognizes, and encourages a variety of perspectives on important issues.

I feel very fortunate to have an outstanding public library just a short bicycle ride from my home right here in Goleta.

I'm here to address the Discussion item entitled "Collection Development Policy and Request for Reconsideration Form." My concern is with one word in the proposed policy listed under "Selection Policy." That word is the fourth bullet point regarding review criteria. That word is "ACCURACY." I am fully supportive of and applaud every other element of the proposed policy. In addition, I strongly concur with the American Library Association's Freedom to View Statement.

The short definition in Oxford Languages of the word "accurate" is as follows: "correct in all details, exact." I repeat: "correct in ALL details, Exact." Given that accepted wisdom and scientific knowledge is constantly shifting and evolving; that historical narratives are revised and basic disagreements exist on many important issues and topics — the goal of "accuracy" is simply elusive. And who will sit in judgement at the Library and declare a book to be "accurate — correct in all details, exact?" Is the latest diet or food fad book accurate? What about the latest hagiography about a politician or celebrity? How likely to be accurate is the economist prognosticating on the future of the economy or the stock market ? Or how about the slew of relationship and self-help books? Many popular books posit theories about past, present and future - how do we vet their accuracy? When I was a student at UCSB the required reading was Paul Ehrlich's THE POPULATION BOMB. His reputation has still not recovered. And what about all the books on Peak Oil, Y2K, Francis Fukuyama's THE END OF HISTORY, etc. etc.

The best we can do is to present a variety of learned perspectives with reasoned arguments that we as a reader can either accept or reject. Please drop the word "accuracy" from the proposed policy. Thank you for the opportunity to address this item.

Sent from my iPhone

for meeting!!

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Mon 8/1/2022 6:12 PM

To: Janet Ling <jling@cityofgoleta.org>