Display and Reader's Advisory Policy

I. Materials and Resources

The Irondale Public Library will offer displays of library materials and/or resources that appeal to a range of ages, interests, and informational needs of the community. Consideration will be given to the age and intended audience of the display. Displays will be determined based on the suitability of the subject and style for the intended audience.

Displays of materials and resources in the library are intended to illustrate the width and breadth of available content in the library. Acceptance of a display topic or of materials within the display by the Library does not constitute an endorsement by Irondale Public Library or the City of Irondale of the content of the display, or of the views expressed in the materials on display. The library will not display materials that violate applicable laws.

The Library Director holds the final approval for the display of library materials and/or resources, but librarians choose display topics for the area of the collection they are responsible for. Additionally, employees throughout the library share day-to-day responsibilities of keeping displays filled. Library staff uses the following criteria in making decisions about display topics, materials, and accompanying resources:

- New materials will be displayed in appropriate departments for the material (children's materials in children's department, DVDs with DVDs, etc.)
- Community needs and interest or relation to current events
- Availability of display space
- Holidays, celebrations, and nationally recognized days/months of recognition
- Historical, cultural, or educational significance
- Connection to other community or national programs, exhibitions, or events
- Relation to library collections, resources, and programs

II. Statements of Concern

Should an Irondale resident take issue with a display or an item within the display, they may complete and submit a "Request for Reconsideration" form. (See Appendices for form)

III. **Bulletin Board**

The Irondale Public Library provides two bulletin boards located in the hallway near the public restrooms. One bulletin board is to inform the public about city business, meetings and official notices from Irondale City Hall. The other bulletin board is dedicated to community events, brochures, posters, or literature from an individual or company advertising a service or product. The library director reserves the right to approve all materials prior to display. The library director or their designee also reserves the right to purge the display area of materials without prior notice.

IV. **Reader's Advisory**

Reader's Advisory is the act of a library employee assisting a patron to find materials that they are interested in. This can be done through displays, book lists, or through conversation with a patron.

Under the guidance of the Library Director, all staff share responsibility for providing this integral library service by virtue of their employment.

When directly assisting a patron with reader's advisory, the staff member will ask lots of questions to help discern what might be a good recommendation.

Consideration will be given but not limited to:

- Patron's age
- Reading level
- Stated interests and/or requested topics
- Type of material
- Stated limitations (no romance books, only nonfiction, large print or audio book only, no graphic violence, etc.)

Library staff will present the patron with options that meet the patron's requests. However, staff cannot have read every book in the library or be able to discern every nuance of a patron's likes and dislikes. It is up to the patron to choose what, if any, materials to check out for themselves or for their minor children. Final selection lies with the patron or the patron's guardian if that patron is a minor.

Items provided to patrons through readers' advisory does not constitute an endorsement by Irondale Public Library, library staff, or the City of Irondale of the content or views expressed in said items.

(Approved by the Irondale Public Library Board October 23, 2024)