



WASHOE COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

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July 24, 2024

Dear Director Scott,

On July 11th, the Workplace Violence Committee (WVC) convened to address concerns stemming from a recent workplace violence incident at the North Valley Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH) event. During this event, an employee was injured by a protester. The committee thoroughly reviewed the incident and noted a pattern of escalating tensions and safety risks for library staff, particularly during events like DQSH and extending into Library Board of Trustee Meetings, over the past two years.

After careful deliberation, the WVC unanimously voted to recommend that Washoe County libraries discontinue hosting DQSH events due to significant concerns for employee safety. Despite ongoing efforts by library staff and volunteers to enhance safety measures, including increased security presence and de-escalation training, the committee concluded that the risks posed to County employees have reached an unacceptable level. Careful consideration of any event which puts County employees in a harmful situation would result in the same recommendation.

It is regrettable that these events have compromised the safety of Washoe County staff. The decision to cease hosting DQSH events within our libraries was not made lightly. I would ask the Library system to review and assist in determining if other venues may provide a more suitable solution for our community.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions regarding this challenging decision.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Brown
Washoe County Manager