



Date: May 18, 2023

Subject: Request for Reconsideration – *This is Why They Hate Us*

Dear [REDACTED],

This letter is a response to your Request for Reconsideration which was received on April 24, 2023 regarding *This is Why They Hate Us* by Aaron Aceves.

Per Samuels Public Library's reconsideration procedures, members of the library staff read your thoughtful comments and have considered your concerns. During the review process, staff members read the book in its entirety and consulted the Samuels Public Library Collection Development Policy, the American Library Association's (ALA) Library Bill of Rights, the ALA Freedom to Read statement, the ALA Access to Library Resources and Service for Minors: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights, book reviews from professional journals, and any honors the title received.

*This is Why They Hate Us* is a young adult novel recommended by the publisher for ages 14 – 18. Published in August 2022, the title received many favorable reviews. A starred review from *Booklist* exclaims, "Aceves has written a well-plotted, thoughtful coming-of-age novel featuring a complex, fully realized protagonist..." A starred review from *Kirkus* calls the novel, "An outstanding portrait of teenage longing, angst, and self-discovery." Yet another starred review from *Publishers Weekly* states, "Aceves's debut balances brash humor and fumbling first loves in an East L.A. narrative that places serious significance on mental health." In addition to three starred reviews from professional journals, *This is Why They Hate Us* was also a finalist for a Cybils Award. This award, judged by book bloggers and reviewers, works to recognize books written for children and young adults that combine both the highest literary merit and popular appeal. According to WorldCat, *This is Why They Hate Us* is currently in the collections of at least 336 public libraries across the United States.

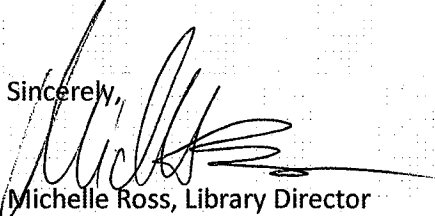
Samuels Public Library's Collection Development Policy incorporates ALA's Library Bill of Rights, which states, "Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval." Samuels Public Library's Collection Development Policy also incorporates ALA's Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights, which states "Libraries and their governing bodies cannot assume the role of parents or the functions of parental authority in the private relationship between parent and child. Libraries and their governing bodies shall ensure that only parents and guardians have the right and the responsibility to determine their children's – and only their children's – access to library resources. Parents and guardians who do not want their children to have access to specific library services, materials, or facilities should so advise their own children."

After considering your request, the staff review team has concluded that *This is Why They Hate Us* meets the requirements of the Collection Development Policy and should be retained by Samuels Public Library. The title is shelved in a separate area for young adult materials, away from materials geared towards much younger children. While the content might not be suitable for every person in the publisher's recommended age group, it is the parent's responsibility to determine which materials best fit the needs of their individual child. You may appeal this decision in writing to the Samuels Public Library Board of Trustees.

Staff will now begin the review process for *Ana on the Edge* by A.J. Sass. You will receive a response to that Request for Reconsideration within 15 business days.

Thank you for your interest in the collections of Samuels Public Library.

Sincerely,



Michelle Ross, Library Director