

> From: SaraJacobsen  
> Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 6:25 AM  
> To: Douglas Co. Public Library  
> Subject: Continued concerns over closing  
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> Dear board members and director,  
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> I am writing again to express my continued concern regarding your decision to close the library doors to the public.  
>  
> Today marks exactly one month since you have taken away the public's ability to utilize the resources that we need, and that our tax dollars and donations pay for.  
>  
> Prior to Christmas break the Douglas County School District reported over 1000 children attending their virtual academy- these children have the right to browse for books.  
> As an educator myself, I must advocate for the importance of literacy for the children of Douglas County.  
>  
> On an even more personal note, I am a home schooling mother. My children need to explore and understand library science, and need to have access to the leveled readers that are not available to check-out on your website.  
>  
> Please consider the adults who use the library services for technology, as well as literature.  
> Not everyone in our community owns a computer, can afford WiFi internet, has a printer, etc.  
> Our library is what allows these needed technologies to be used by those who otherwise wouldn't have access.  
>  
> When I spoke to two of your employees yesterday, they repeatedly said this decision was made due to Governor Sisolak's mandates. I would like to remind you that Governor Sisolak's current mandate is that libraries are to be at no more than 25% occupancy. Why have you made the decision to allow 0% occupancy?  
>  
> Please recognize that the library is essential to the people of Douglas County. The community deserves the opportunity to utilize the resources that we fund.  
> The library needs to open.  
>  
> I am asking you respond to this email with the following information, to help me better understand your decision making:  
> -the number that is your 25% occupancy mark -the number of Covid-19 cases that the Health Department's contract tracing has linked directly to the Douglas County Public Library -any projected reopening date  
>  
>  
> Sincerely,  
> Sara Jacobsen

From: SaraJacobsen  
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2021 8:52 AM  
To: Amy Dodson <[ADodson@douglas.lib.nv.us](mailto:ADodson@douglas.lib.nv.us)>  
Subject: Re: Continued concerns over closing

I appreciate your willingness to provide additional curbside services to my family. Unfortunately, as an educator I still have the responsibility of advocating for all of the children of Douglas County, not just my own children. Thus, I am not satisfied with the accommodations you have offered me personally, as it will not help the community as a whole.

I am also not satisfied with your attempt to use the Covid-19 positivity rate as an excuse for keeping the doors of the library closed.

At the January 7th county commissioner meeting, Commissioner Tarkanian voiced his concerns with using positivity rate as a sole metric for decision making. Following this, Mrs. Freeman, the Quad County health preparedness manager stated it is "not wise to use" positivity rate as a sole metric.

As you referred this exact meeting to me as the basis of current decision making, I find it dissatisfying that you are trying to use this metric that state officials warn not to use it independently.

Currently, 4% of our population has tested positive for Covid- thus 96% of us are healthy enough to utilize library resources.

I understand that the governor stated that counties can decide to have tighter restrictions than the recommended 25% mandate, and this is clearly what you have decided to do. As a community member I am voicing that your decision is not supported by the community you are supposed to serve.

I am asking you to work for the community, not against us.

My current request is that the library open by appointment.

The library has staff Monday-Saturday, and can legally have 40 people inside.

I find it more than reasonable to allow at least 20 people to make appointments by the hour. Opening by appointment only is a fair compromise; it will allow you to control the factors you personally find concerning in regards to Covid-19 and would allow our people to utilize the library resources we need, we fund, and we have the right to.

I am looking forward to hearing from you in regards to approval of opening via appointment, or your potential reasoning for not accommodating our community with this request.

Sincerely,  
Sara Jacobsen

**From:** SaraJacobsen  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 2:54 PM  
**To:** Amy Dodson <[ADodson@douglas.lib.nv.us](mailto:ADodson@douglas.lib.nv.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Continued concerns over closing

Hello again Ms. Dodson,

I am writing to obtain the following information:

-How many Douglas County Public Library employees have been laid-off/fired in the last 6 months due to the aforementioned budget cuts?

This of course should not include Maria's well deserved retirement.

-How many employees on your current payroll are currently working from home?

-How much money has the library already spent on CDC recommended PPE; for, I witnessed an incredible amount of plexiglass, gloves, disposable book bags , etc during the library's most recent opening.

I also want to stress the importance of not reporting or making decisions based on hear-say. People calling and saying they were possibly in the library with Covid does not mean that it is a true case of dangerous exposure. As you have already told me, no actual Covid exposures have been reported to you by the state. Contact tracing facts need to outweigh your speculations.

Covid cannot be used as an excuse any longer. The vaccine is being administered daily, our community's numbers are low and our hospitals are not full.

Even the Governor has approved the opening of the library.

Covid should not be used as an excuse to limit people's quality of life or impede the development and the future of our children.

I am planning on reaching out to additional members of our community who share the same belief that we need and have the right to access the library resources.

I hope if you continue to hear from others my voice won't fall upon deaf ears.

We fund the library- we should be in the library.

I look forward to your response, including the pertinent information I requested.

Sincerely,  
Sara Jacobsen

**From:** [Kristen Peck](#)  
**To:** [Amy Dodson](#); [Douglas Co. Public Library](#)  
**Subject:** Library Opening  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 5:58:09 PM

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Dear Ms. Dodson,

I am writing over my concerns around the library being closed to the community. I appreciate the efforts you have made during this global pandemic to assure safety for your staff and patrons. I have seen the safety glass and PPE that you were able to get and use to keep library staff and patrons appropriately distanced and protected, but am wondering why all that effort has been cast aside and you have just shut down. Yes, our numbers have climbed, but we are back on a decline. It is a very small percentage of our overall community and other resources like schools, the community center, swim center and small businesses have found a way to continue to serve our community. Even the governor has libraries on the list as able to open.

The library is a community resource and tax payer funded asset. I am wondering what matrix you are using to decide when to open and close the library to the public? I am an educator, mother and advocate for the community, especially our young children. I believe there is no reason the library can not be opened at some capacity during the statewide "pause" we are under. Could you please educate me to why you have taken this stance and your plan for reopening this vital resource.

Thank you.

Kristen Peck  
775-790-3357

**From:** [PHILIP WRIGHT](#)  
**To:** [Douglas Co. Public Library](#); [Amy Dodson](#); [Kathryn Garrahan](#)  
**Subject:** Douglas County Library Closure  
**Date:** Thursday, January 21, 2021 4:17:22 PM

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To Whom it May Concern:

We have been a patrons of the Douglas County Library for many years and have always found the staff very helpful and pleasant. I do not fault the library staff.

I am disgusted that the board agreed to waste \$30,000 for a report on the sheriff/BLM incident. What an exercise in futility and money that could have been much better spent. The library cannot afford to police fines for overdue library books but spends \$30,000 for virtually nothing!

As to the way the library is handling Covid:

Despite installation of safety measures, i.e., plexiglass and self checkout of books, the library remains closed.

Children enrolled in virtual school need access to books, as do isolated seniors and adults.

Our tax dollars are paying for these facilities.

Whoever thought any book touched by a patron must be put in a basket for sanitizing? No Covid case has been traced to the library and is not transmitted by touching a book! If Covid were transmitted this way, Walmart, Raley's, Costco, Home Depot, etc., would all have spread covid round the world. We all handle food and other items at these large, well-run stores with no ill effects and they are inspected regularly.

If I want a book, I am now supposed to phone in, sit in my car, wait for a person to come to the car, insist that I open the trunk or rear door and then deposit in my car the book enclosed in yet another plastic bag. Absolutely pathetic. I can't go to the library door and receive the books; put it on the floor and I'll retrieve it! Covid has released a massive amount of plastic into a world already drowning in single-use and unrecycleable plastic. May we return these thick plastic bags to the library to be used again? What if I have a bicycle or come on foot to the library?

Why was browsing OK for 3 days a week but a problem for 5 days a week? Now it is zero days. We can all freely walk into stores, casinos and restaurants but not the library? The state has rules on rate of occupancy which even at the most rigorous is 25% not zero. Governor Sisolak allows for libraries to be open at 25% capacity (equivalent of 40 people) which means you probably wouldn't even need to limit access as there are rarely more than 10 people in the library other than for special events.

Anyone afraid to enter the library is free to phone in and follow your present rules.

If these rules are put in place by Director Amy Dodson, she needs to be replaced. Get a director who will be practical yet still safe.

Your mission is "to provide a comprehensive collection of library materials, services and programs with the support of qualified staff to meet the informational, educational, recreational and cultural needs of all residents and visitors of Douglas County." You cannot do this with the library virtually closed.

Sincerely, Philip and Penelope Wright  
Gardnerville

cc: Douglas County Commissioners

**From:** [Nancy](#)  
**To:** [Douglas Co. Public Library](#)  
**Subject:** Library  
**Date:** Monday, January 18, 2021 7:06:24 AM

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The library has already purchased and installed all of the recommended safety measures of plexiglass, and has two fully functioning self-checkouts that require absolutely no human interaction. Instead of putting these resources to use, the library remains shut. Over 800 school-aged children are currently enrolled in virtual school or are homeschooling and need access to books! Our adults and seniors need books at a time when isolation is encouraged. Our tax dollars pay for these resources and we need to be able to access them! Governor Sisolak's current "pause" on Nevada allows for libraries to admit 25% occupancy; for our library that is the equivalent of 40 people- so why are they allowing 0? So reopen for limited use.

Is this another black lives matter fiasco.

Nancy Hollenbach

**From:** Barbara S. Smallwood TRUST Realty Group <[smallwoodsells@aol.com](mailto:smallwoodsells@aol.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 25, 2021 10:59 AM  
**To:** Gregory, Cynthia <[cgregory@douglas.nv.gov](mailto:cgregory@douglas.nv.gov)>; Ritchie, Doug <[dritchie@douglas.nv.gov](mailto:dritchie@douglas.nv.gov)>;  
[adodson@douglas.lib.nv.us](mailto:adodson@douglas.lib.nv.us)  
**Subject:** DCPL.. 02-26-21 agenda

Good Morning.. I called the Library this morning to share a few concerns about the meeting tomorrow. Asked for the Director and she was not available.

Told Veronica my concerns and told her I would share with KRoser the boards attorney.

I was told it was no longer KRoser but now CGregory.  
Thank You.

1.) FRONT PAGE all copy.. Original, Red line and Yellow..So I wanted to know in the bylaws in the first paragraph it calls out that the "Douglas County Library Board of Trustees" will be called " Library Board" called "the Board" but no mention of the Trustees' Yet in the bylaws Trustee is used often.

2.) Why is a donation to the Library a tax deductible gift with an IRS receipt?

3.) Friends, zoom meeting.. can anyone look at the meeting or only "FRIENDS"?

4.) Ad hoc Committee with one Trustee or Board member reports back to the Library Board.

My understanding is this has to go to the "director" to make recommendations then come to the Board?

I had asked for the hard copy, in the mailing of the hard copy, I have the original, one page of the red line and the yellow copy of the directors recommendations. I have asked for a full printed copy of the red line to be sure I can follow along with the meeting.

Thank You, Barbara



BARBARA S. SMALLWOOD  
REALTOR®- SRES® e-PRO®  
RED NV. License #S.15253 Home office-775-782-7915  
[smallwoodseels@aol.com](mailto:smallwoodseels@aol.com) Cell-775-720-9767

As you requested this email may contain information on properties.  
If you are receiving this email in error or no longer wish to receive my emails.  
SIMPLY reply and request to be removed. Thank You.



**From:** [Sara Jacobsen](#)  
**To:** [Douglas Co. Public Library](#); [Amy Dodson](#); [Kathryn Garrahan](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for January 26, 2020  
**Date:** Monday, January 25, 2021 2:49:28 PM  
**Attachments:** [image1.png](#)  
[ATT00001.txt](#)

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Dear board members and director,

I am writing again to express my continued concern regarding your decision to close the library doors to the public.

Next week will mark two months since you have taken away the public's ability to utilize the resources that we need, and that our tax dollars and donations pay for.

Prior to Christmas break the Douglas County School District reported over 1000 children attending their virtual academy- Douglas Nevada Online- and/or homeschooling. All of these children have the right to browse for books, and learn basic library science.

As an educator myself, I must advocate for the importance of literacy for the children of Douglas County.

On an even more personal note, I am a home schooling mother. My children need to explore and understand library science, and need to have access to the leveled readers that are not available to check-out on your website. Online check-out is extremely inconvenient and frustrating; not is it appropriate for a 4-year old.

In addition to our children, please consider the adults who use the library services for technology, as well as literature.

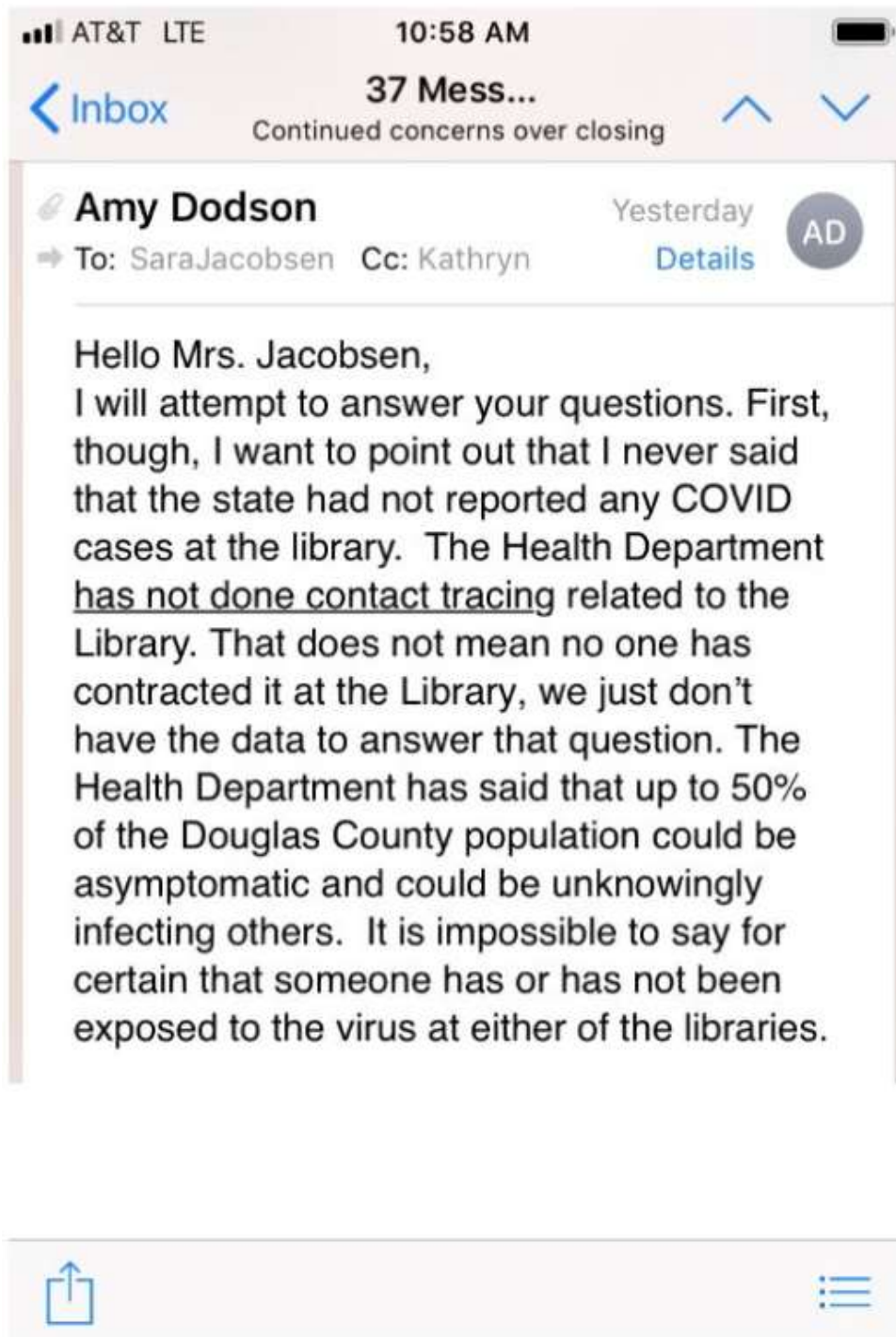
Not everyone in our community owns a computer, can afford WiFi internet, has a printer, etc.

Our library is what allows these needed technologies to be used by those who otherwise wouldn't have access.

Access to reading materials is so important for seniors right now, at a time when social isolation is encouraged.

I have sent numerous emails to director Amy Dodson, and she repeatedly replies with concerns and personal fear about Covid-19 as her reason for the continued closure. On numerous accounts she has provided me with "data" that appears to be complete farce.

In one instance she stated the decision to stay closed was due to an increase in test positivity rate- but that same exact day the Quad County health manager spoke at the county commissioners meeting warning the public to NOT use test positivity rate as sole criteria in any circumstance. The last email I received from Ms. Dodson was even more ridiculous, as she stated that the health department is not even conducting contact tracing, and that 50% of Douglas County residents are asymptotic Covid carriers. Please view this, as it is almost unbelievable that a public library director would try and convince the public of such falsified information:



I have reached out to the state and they are indeed doing contract tracing, and nowhere was I able to obtain her 50% asymptotic claim.

I would like to remind you that Governor Sisolak's current mandate is that libraries are to be at no more than 25% occupancy. For the Douglas County Public Library, this would allow for 40 individuals. Why have you made the decision to allow 0% occupancy?

With Covid cases on a significant decreasing trend, vaccinations taking place, and the allowance by the governor, Covid-19 can no longer be used as an excuse.

Our community members deserve the right to decide whether they want to stay isolated and continue using curbside services OR follow the CDC recommendations that allow for safe library browsing. We are adults, and should be able to make this decision for ourselves and our children.

Not a single Covid case has been traced to the library, the library has already purchased all of the recommended PPE (plexiglass, masks, gloves, etc) and there are two self checkouts that require minimal human contact/interaction.

Please recognize that the library is essential to the people of Douglas County. The community deserves the opportunity to utilize the resources that we fund.  
The library needs to open.

Sincerely,  
Sara Jacobsen

Sent from my iPhone

Library Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting  
1/26/2021

Public Comment Voicemail

Transcription

Sara Jacobsen – My public comment in addition to the written public comments that I had made previously is particular to the amount of talk that has happened thus far in today's Board of Trustees meeting. I keep repeatedly hearing the phrase and concern over wanting and needing increased patronage and usage, in particular when you were discussing the agenda item pertaining to book lockers. I find it frustrating that the board is willing to spend tens of thousands of dollars for book lockers in hopes of having increased patronage and usage of library material when the library is still closed and that the issue of decreased patronage and usage of the library due to the closure have not been addressed. I appreciate that Ms. Dodson did say that it is difficult to determine demands currently because of curbside service being essentially the only service that is available pointing out that yes curbside service is an issue to determine the need of our community. I believe that the board needs to truly look at increasing patronage and usage of the library by opening the library and allowing full patronage and usage as we should be able to use as library card holders in Douglas County. Voicemail was received at 11:29 a.m. on 1/26/2021.

Linda Miller – I am streaming the library board meeting this morning. Item number 10, the governor says the library can be open at 25%. I don't agree with Amy Dodson's comments that she wants to delay delay, study study. Overwhelmingly the board members are in favor of opening the library. It doesn't have to be at 25%, it can be less. I believe they are right that it is important to do what the public's asking. Amy Dodson doesn't seem to be interested in pleasing the people that visit the library. So, on item number 10 please open the library. She has plenty of time, she has the money to open the library say in two weeks. Post it in the local newspaper. Thank you. Voicemail was received at 12:23 p.m. on 1/26/2021.