

MOTION

ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, PARKS, AND RIVER

The Los Angeles Public Library and its 72 neighborhood branches have been providing free educational, artistic, financial, healthcare and civic programming and services to millions of children, teens, and adults for almost 150 years. The system has been woven into the fabric of Los Angeles and today is responsible for serving and caring for more than 14 million visitors a year.

The advent of technology and availability of information has been a boon to the City’s library system, and over the last decade, we’ve seen a marked shift in the way libraries are managed and operated. Trends in technology have created tensions that have been difficult to navigate. Ten years ago the charge of the City’s libraries was to stay abreast of the times - to introduce new technology and ways of serving the digital patron. Today, that very system is struggling to maintain access to content while ensuring our facilities remain safe, welcoming environments for all visitors.

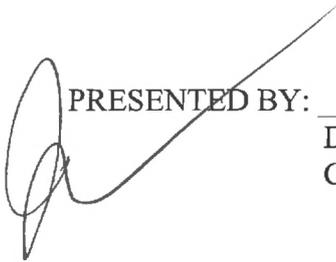
Every day adults across the city use library computers to do research, read news, watch YouTube videos and apply for jobs. Others use the very same services to access pornography. In recent years, the viewing of pornography at our public libraries has become all too common. Recent investigative reports that have highlighted the illegal use of drugs and sexual conduct both inside and outside libraries, also focused on the regular viewing of hard core pornography, in close proximity to children’s reading areas, and in eyesight of students and parents walking by.

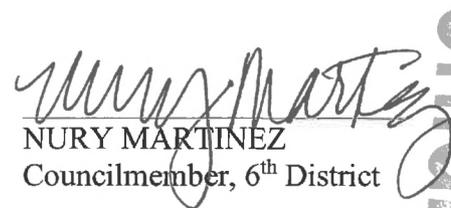
Current Los Angeles Public Library policy grants visitors unfettered Internet access unless a person is viewing child pornography or tries to engage other people in the viewing of pornography. Privacy screens have been installed on all library computers, with the intent of shielding content from passers-by and protecting the privacy of users, but this solution has been inadequate.

The rights of children, parents, students and senior citizens to access the programming and services provided by the library, and to freely assemble without being deterred by the conduct of individuals viewing lewd content on publicly-owned computers must be protected. Libraries are for everyone, and that includes our children and families.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Los Angeles Public Library Department to immediately install centralized filtering software within all library branches to prevent access to online lewd content through the public library’s workstations, desktop computers and wireless networks.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Los Angeles Public Library prepare and present a supplemental budget request with recommendations to implement a long-term plan of action to prevent lewd content from being viewed on publicly owned library workstations, desktop computers and wireless networks.

PRESENTED BY:  _____
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