

R-7 CORRESPONDENCE – Laurie Angel

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Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 12:58 PM

To: Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>

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Subject: City Council Agenda - North Library Naming

Dear Mayor Garcia,

I am very concerned with the proposal to name the new North Library after first lady Michelle Obama.

First of all, the naming gives the appearance of being primarily a political move. 'Giving the appearance' equates to what many believe, and may in fact, be the reality. National attention on a / many rising ambitious politician(s) has got to be irresistible.

Secondly, we are in the middle of a very contentious election year. The political parties have been extremely polarized during the Obama administration throughout the country. Mention Obama and you it is either devotion, apathy or extreme distaste. I voted for him and I am supportive of much of what he does, but this country is right now ripped apart because of the political jousting that goes on. It really is too much to tie all of this to the naming of a library, because it does.

Using the Obama name you immediately and automatically lose close to half of the city, even if many or most of our current city elected officials are entrenched or beholden to the ideals and philosophy of the democratic party. Both parties have lost a lot of support due to the quality and type of debate and agenda each is pushing. They are losing the American people with this rhetoric and based on many of the policies each is pushing and showing up on your agendas far too often.

The name Obama incites all of this political duress and dissatisfaction. This is not at all the kind of response any one would want with the naming of a library.

Third, the library foundation is dependent upon the donations of patrons that support literacy and the library in general. I know for a fact the foundation is losing support for the new North Branch because of this naming from some of its biggest donors. This is not at all the kind of dissonance we need for our new library or North Long Beach.

Forth, I have great respect for Michelle Obama, as many do but she is not representative of libraries. Her heart is not the library. First lady Laura Bush was much more representative as a teacher and librarian. Would you name the library after

her? Libraries are not the heart and primary interest for first lady Obama. She should not so be honored.

Please remove this item from the agenda. Now is not the time to do this particularly in a hyper charged political environment. It is the wrong thing to do at the wrong time honoring the wrong person for the wrong reasons.

Respectfully,

Laurie Angel

I was part of NorthPAC and we worked on the library for over 10 years to extensive detail. We did not do all of this work to see it politicized just as we prepare for its completion.