



## *Office of the County Executive*

Monroe County, New York

**Maggie Brooks**  
*County Executive*

**James P. Smith**  
*Deputy County Executive*

February 21, 2007

Ms. Paula Smith, Director  
Monroe County Public Library  
115 South Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14604

Dear Ms. Smith:

I firmly believe that government's primary responsibility is promoting the safety and the security of our fellow citizens. As County Executive, it's a responsibility that I take very seriously.

With that in mind, I am writing to you today to register my disgust after learning that the Central Library allows pornography to be viewed openly in the presence of children. While I am aware that a minimal internet filtering system is employed at the library, the evidence clearly shows that the library's policies governing this filter have failed our children, and failed our community.

As WHEC-10 found in their recent investigation, internet users aged 17 and older can openly access and view graphic materials such as pornography in the Central Library, all while in the presence of children. And in one horrifying instance, a probationer previously arrested for child endangerment was found to be viewing questionable material on the second floor – and in proximity to the children's section of the library.

If that wasn't enough, I was mortified to witness your library's defiant attitude on this matter. This was illustrated by Pam O'Sullivan's comments to WHEC-10, where she stated that "protecting the first amendment" is the responsibility of our public librarians. In a day and age where our community must remain vigilant in protecting our children, and in a community that cherishes our children's right to a first-class educational environment, I am stunned that the library would place any interest above that of our children's safety and welfare.

For these reasons, I am demanding that our Central Library take immediate action to halt the public viewing of pornography and other graphic materials. And should the library chose to ignore this reasonable demand to protect our community's children, I am prepared to exit the annual agreement with the City of Rochester, and defund library operations at the earliest possible date under the terms of the agreement.

110 County Office Building • 39 West Main Street • Rochester, NY 14614

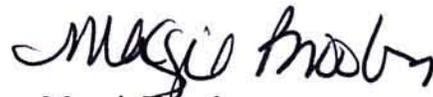
(585) 753-1000 • fax: (585) 753-1014 • [www.monroecounty.gov](http://www.monroecounty.gov) • e-mail: [countyexecutive@monroecounty.gov](mailto:countyexecutive@monroecounty.gov)

**Ms. Paula Smith**  
**Page Two**

Simply put, I refuse to allow any further County tax dollars to flow to a facility that has failed to protect our children.

It's truly unfortunate that we have arrived at this moment in the long and proud history of our County's Central Library. However, as Monroe County Executive, I will always do what is necessary to protect the safety and security of our community's children. They deserve no less.

Sincerely yours,



Maggie Brooks  
Monroe County Executive

cc: Honorable Robert Duffy, Mayor  
Honorable William Smith, County Legislative Representative  
Honorable Members of the Monroe County Legislature  
Board of Trustees of the Monroe County Library System