



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

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FCSO Closes Review into "All Boys Aren't Blue" Complaint, No Violation Found Warranting a Criminal Investigation

On November 9, 2021, the Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) received a complaint by Flagler County School Board Member Jill Woolbright, about a book titled "All Boys Aren't Blue" being available in some Flagler County school media centers alleging the book was pornography under Florida law.

Woolbright alleged two chapters of the book discuss sexually explicit material and it should not be available to children in violation of Florida law. She believed it was a crime to have the book in media centers due to the descriptive content and that Flagler County School media centers or employees should be held criminally accountable.

The FCSO Investigative Services Division (ISD) conducted a review of the complaint. In consultation with FCSO's General Counsel's legal opinion, it was determined there was no evidence suggesting the book was purchased outside of the normal procedures or procurement processes established by the Flagler County School Board, nor did a review of the facts, in this case, meet the elements of a crime under Florida law.

"As indicated by our investigators' review of this particular case, this complaint does not rise to the level of criminal activity," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "The Sheriff's Office does not determine what material is appropriate for the students of Flagler County. The Flagler County School Board has the constitutional duty and responsibility to determine the content of all materials used in the classroom and made available in the school library. The Board is responsible for developing proper policies and procedures to evaluate and purchase these materials. The Board's policies and practices permitted the purchase and circulation of the book in question.

The determination of whether the book is appropriate for school libraries rests on the shoulders of the Flagler County School District leadership. This matter should have been addressed by the School Board

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and its District leadership before being submitted to the Flagler County Sheriff's Office as a criminal complaint. Our review concluded the allegations did not meet the threshold of a criminal offense and therefore are not a matter to be investigated by the Sheriff's Office. While I have my personal opinion on this issue, I am sworn to uphold Florida law and not my personal opinion."

FCSO also reviewed allegations of "threats" made during various protests, counter-protests, and on social media platforms. While the behavior and language of some individuals was discourteous, there were no comments made that rose to the level of a threat under Florida law. The comments and the manner they were made were protected by First Amendment speech, regardless of how disgusting they may have been or perceived by others.

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