

# Save Our Escondido Library Coalition

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 16, 2017

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## 150 Rally Against LS&S Operation of Escondido Library

*70-foot long UnWelcome mat masterpiece unveiled to send clear message.*

**Escondido, CA:** This morning at least 150 residents gathered to roll out the UnWelcome mat for LS&S at the Escondido Public Library. They made calls and videos, collected petition signatures, and sang a special song in support of keeping our public library operated by, for, and accountable to the public.

The city council majority of Mayor Sam Abed, John Masson, and Ed Gallo voted last month to develop a contract to outsource our library with Library Systems and Services (LS&S).

The UnWelcome mat presented today had colorful, bilingual and very pointed messages to LS&S letting them know they are not welcome in Escondido. Messages included:

- We don't want you, we don't need you.
- LS&S not welcome here.
- LS&S La biblioteca es nuestra.

[A video of the entire UnWelcome mat is here.](https://www.escondidoindivisible.com/2017/09/16/video-of-entire-unwelcome-mat-for-lss-at-escondido-library/)

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Many attendees made short videos to send to the President and CEO of LS&S and Argosy Capital, owners of LS&S.

The video messages were short and not-so-sweet. 30-yr Escondido resident Brenda Townsend said, "Our library has been here 123 years without you and we can go another 123 years. We don't need you, we don't like you, and we don't want you. Stay where you are. Leave us alone."

<https://www.escondidoindivisible.com/2017/09/16/lss-we-dont-want-you-we-dont-need-you-leave-us-alone/>

Anthony Rodriguez, a student said, "I rely on this library for my school books. I need this library to be successful." <https://www.escondidoindivisible.com/2017/09/16/student-relies-on-this-library-i-need-this-library-to-be-successful/>. Marty Tucker said, "This is a public library. For the people. Not someone far away. It's ours." <https://www.escondidoindivisible.com/2017/09/16/video-of-entire-unwelcome-mat-for-lss-at-escondido-library/>

Debbie Resler and her son shared, "LS&S we are here to tell you there is no place and no room for you here." <https://www.escondidoindivisible.com/2017/09/16/video-statement-lss-there-is-not-place-and-no-room-for-you-here-in-escondido-exactly/> Exactly.

The full council will be in closed session on this matter on September 20 and will potentially consider a contract at some date in October.

Keep updated about this issue by joining us at [SaveEscondidoLibrary@gmail.com](mailto:SaveEscondidoLibrary@gmail.com).

# Save Our Escondido Library Coalition

**About Save Our Escondido Library Coalition:** The coalition formed by local Escondido community groups and residents in response to the City of Escondido's move to outsource the Escondido Public Library. The coalition seeks to educate themselves and the public and to provide a conduit for Escondido residents to voice their concerns.



Sending a clear message, Saturday, September 16, 2017 at the Escondido Public Library



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Diana Fink leads the rally in front of Escondido Library.



70 foot long unwelcome mat to let LS&S they are unwelcome here.