

11-14-2013

Chief: 2 Incidents in 11 Years Where Library Should've Called Police

Ben Feldheim

Follow this and additional works at: https://dc.uwm.edu/orland_park_library_challenge



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Feldheim, Ben, "Chief: 2 Incidents in 11 Years Where Library Should've Called Police" (2013). *Orland Park Public Library (Illinois)*, 2013. 160.

https://dc.uwm.edu/orland_park_library_challenge/160

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by UWM Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Orland Park Public Library (Illinois), 2013 by an authorized administrator of UWM Digital Commons. For more information, please contact open-access@uwm.edu.

Chief: 2 Incidents in 11 Years Where Library Should've Called Police

Orland Park Police Chief Tim McCarthy said the department examined incident records from within and from the library since 2002 and found in a vast majority of incidents where police are needed they are called.

Posted by [Ben Feldheim](#) (Editor) , November 14, 2013 at 08:52 AM



Trending Now on Patch

- [Is Sugar a 'Poison'? FDA Seeks Warning Labels](#)
- [TOP: Protesting Moms Stage Nurse-In at Wal-Mart; 'Real Housewives' Husband Sentenced for Fraud; Man Charged With Stealing From Special Needs Camp](#)
- [Alcohol Abuse Responsible for 10 Percent of Adult Deaths](#)
- [Accused Embezzler Back on City Payroll • Road Named for Slain Soldier](#)

The Orland Park Police Department was among several people and entities that requested records from the Orland Park Public Library [following a mother's challenge to the library to tighten Internet access](#) after claiming to see a man looking at a naked woman on a library computer.

Police found two occasions since 2002 — one where a patron was accused of masturbating openly and another where a patron was accused of looking at child pornography — warranted a call to police and staff did not contact them, according to Orland Park Police Chief Tim McCarthy. After both occasions, staff members were reminded to call police in such incidents,

though the people accused were warned that repeating the actions in question will get them banned.

“We talked to them and they totally agreed,” McCarthy said. “It appears in almost all of the serious incidents they are contacting us. Child porn and masturbation should be reported and heightened awareness of these things is a positive. But also people being accused of doing something they didn’t do isn’t a good thing either.”

One of the incidents happened on Aug. 20, 2009, when a patron said a man was seen masturbating in the open in the adult computer area. A staff member told the man he will be banned from the library if he did it again. Library Director Mary Weimar the next day sent an email to the staff members working during the incident to call police in such a situation as it “is an illegal act and requires police intervention.”

The email further read that Weimar spoke to the man accused of masturbating, and asked him to leave and not to return. Police are investigating the incident, though they found that the name and Buffalo, N.Y., address the man gave were false, McCarthy said.

The other incident was reported to happen on March 8, 2011. A patron came to the reference desk and said she saw a man looking at child pornography on a computer, according to library records. The woman said she didn’t want to leave her personal information, and didn’t want the man to know she reported him. The staff person told two other employees at the computer help desk to watch the man’s screen. They said they only saw him looking at Medicare sites on his screen. The woman who reported said he was quickly switching windows.

Two days later, director Mary Weimer and the head of IT approached the man accused, and told him that a complaint was made about him viewing an inappropriate website. The man said the site just appeared but he never tried to access it. He didn’t specify what type of website came up, according to the report. Weimar told him he should contact IT staff if that ever happens again, and told him that if any future complaints were made about him accessing inappropriate websites, he would be banned from the library. The patron “eagerly concurred,” according to library records.