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The Price I Paid for Fighting for a Library Free of Porn and Sex Offenders

Posted By [Megan Fox](#) On January 6, 2014 @ 3:00 pm In [Activism, Books and Magazines, Library](#) | [53 Comments](#)

I'll never forget watching the manhunt for one teenager after the Boston bombing while militarized storm trooper police raided neighborhoods and dragged people (some of them nearly naked) from their homes with their hands over their heads without warrants. The idea that our police drive armored tanks down suburban streets with gun turrets carrying weapons that not even Saddam Hussein owned made me far more terrified than the idea of a lone bomber on the loose. Watching my fellow Americans be ripped out of their homes without cause and forced to run down the street without looking back while police invaded their lives and privacy was chilling. This was all in the name of safety. I remember at the time I thought, "Oh, the lawsuits are going to be expensive!" but I don't think anyone sued, or if they did, no one cared enough to report it. It was the definition of illegal search and seizure *on television!* But instead of outrage, the television was covered in people so thankful to the police for their heroic actions in finding one wounded teen hiding in a boat. (Who, by the way, was actually found by a guy who looked into his backyard and noticed something odd. The tanks and the hysterics didn't contribute one iota to finding the bomber. Just an alert citizen.)

Since then, I've noticed more stories about the militarization of local police and harassment of citizens happening at an alarming rate across this country. [Salinas, California just got an armored police vehicle](#) which is disturbing its residents. They don't understand why their police need such a thing in such a little town. [Places like Boulder, Colorado and Preston, Idaho also received these vehicles](#), disturbing their inhabitants too. Stories of police acting above the law, searching without warrants and abusing their power are on the rise also. There are [videos all over YouTube](#) of concealed weapons permit holders being forced to the ground and threatened with a bullet to the head over a legally carried weapon by officers too caught up in their own power to abide by the law. It's a frightening time to be a private citizen. The government power has reached epic levels and the bloat is infecting even small municipalities and villages.

If you don't think it could happen to you, let me give you a personal example of what's been happening to me for the last three months as I contend with a local police force that's been used as a harassment tool by local elected officials on the library board, of all things.

Those who have been following my series on this know that on [October 4th, 2013 I experienced discrimination and encountered a hostile and sexually harassing environment](#) in the Orland Park Public Library. I complained to the Library Board about what I experienced, and instead of the Board addressing my concerns as a citizen and Library patron, the Board instituted a campaign of using the Orland Park Police Department to retaliate against me for making my complaint.

October 8th: [Library Director Mary Weimar emailed Chief of Police Timothy J. McCarthy](#) and pressed him to investigate my YouTube account and harass me over a three-year old video I posted to YouTube in support of the Second Amendment. In doing this, Director Weimar violated local ordinance 8-6-1-1, which defines "disorderly conduct" as,

"To transmit in any manner to any peace officer, public officer, or public employee a report to the effect that an offense has been committed, knowing at the time of such transmission that there is no reasonable ground for believing that such an offense has been committed."

Ironically, that's just one definition of "disorderly conduct" in Orland Park (it's definition #12). Part of my complaint to the Library was that I observed men openly viewing pornography and becoming sexually aroused in the second floor computer area, where I felt a sexually hostile

environment was created for women by this activity. That makes the men's actions "disorderly conduct" also under ordinance 8-6-1-1, but definition #4.

"To be openly lewd or do any act of public indecency tending to debauch the public morals."

I complained about disorderly conduct not being reported to police in this Library, and to punish me for that, the Library Director committed disorderly conduct herself by "transmitting a report" to the Police Chief via email when she knew full well that there was no reasonable ground to believe that my YouTube videos had committed any offense.

What Library Director Weimar was doing, clearly, was a strategy of harassment involving "building a record" on a target. This is [Saul Alinsky's Rules for Radicals](#) in action (a favorite playbook of the Left.) Specifically, this was Alinsky Rule #13: pick a target, freeze it, personalize it, and polarize it. Because I criticized the Library and started to expose the terrible things that were happening there, the Library Board decided I needed to be discredited, defamed, intimidated, and eliminated as a critic.

My suspicions that this was a deliberate plan to "build a record" on me were confirmed when Director Weimar committed disorderly conduct [again on 11/4/13 by calling 911 in an attempt to have the police arrest me](#) for handing out leaflets outside the Library on public property advising parents that disorderly conduct dangerous to children was being committed regularly inside the building. At the time she made the call to the police, Director Weimar knew there was no reasonable ground to believe that I had committed any offense, but she contacted "a peace officer, public officer, or public employee" to report me anyway. That's twice in a row this woman committed disorderly conduct... and twice that the Orland Park Police filled out paperwork listing me as a "Subject" of a police investigation. The record on me was thus building, but Chief McCarthy declined to complete any paperwork on Ms. Weimar or the Library Board for making nuisance calls and false reports and committing disorderly conduct (even though the Library was violating ordinances in harassing me).

I continued to speak out about what was going on in the Library with men viewing porn and becoming sexually aroused in a building full of children. I used the Freedom of Information Act here in Illinois to uncover 12 reports of disorderly conduct and sex crimes committed in the Library, including the [accessing of child porn](#) and incidents involving [men masturbating in the Library](#) or [harassing women after viewing porn](#).

I spoke up about this at 10/21/13 Board meeting. At that meeting, I was bullied and berated by James Fessler, a partner at Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins who represents the Library. I posted footage on YouTube on 10/22/13 of Mr. Fessler acting in a sexist and misogynistic way towards me at the meeting, and on 10/23/13 Mr. Fessler retaliated against me by — you guessed it — calling the police and, thus, transmitting to a peace officer yet another report that an offense was committed when he knew full well that there was no reasonable ground for believing such an offense was committed.

In this case, a partner in a law firm tried to convince the police to come after me because he claimed he had received "annoying" phone calls and emails from the public after people started watching his behavior on the YouTube video. And he apparently blamed me for this.

The police wasted precious resources and man hours not only investigating me again, but stationing patrol cars in front of Mr. Fessler's house at great expense to taxpayers. Mr. Fessler also committed disorderly conduct under the ordinance by doing this, since there's no way a trained attorney could have any reasonable belief an offense was committed in this situation. Yet, Chief McCarthy chose never to investigate Mr. Fessler for doing this. But, the "build a record against her!" strategy employed against me gained the third report in a row, which had at this point become a file.

The campaign to silence me as a critic intensified in November, when on 11/14/13 I sent an email to all Library staff members I could identify informing of their rights under the EEOC to not work in a sexually hostile workplace. I know the email was received by several staffers before I was reported by IT and my email address was somehow blocked at that point and I was no longer able to send emails to anyone on the Library's server. I had an important document that needed to go to Board President Nancy Healy and it had to reach her before Monday 11/18/13. With email closed off to me, I did not trust being able to drop it off to her

at the Library because I believed that Director Weimar would prevent it from reaching her. I Googled Healy's address and found it in five seconds in her election filings posted by the [SouthTown Star](#). I wanted to mail the document to her (which included an invitation to tea and an attempt to set up a conference on what had been going on to see if she could ramp things down) but I knew it would never get to her in time via the mail. So, I got in my car and I dropped the letter off on her doorstep.

Nancy Wendt Healy (sister of George Wendt from *Cheers*) then committed disorderly conduct herself on 11/14/13 by [calling the police and again transmitting to a police officer](#) that an offense had been committed when she knew full well there was no reasonable ground to believe that such an offense had really been committed. After her call to police, it resulted in an "official" threat of arrest to me at my home through an Officer Carone, who was sadly misinformed of Illinois trespassing laws. He tried to "officially notify" me of criminal trespass, but Illinois law says only an owner or the owner's agent (with power of attorney) may officially notify someone of criminal trespass. What the officer did in lying to me about the law and falsely threatening me with arrest was clear intimidation and would never hold up in court. I particularly liked the part where he tried to ban me from using the US Postal Service to mail anything to her. [You can hear that phone call here.](#)

For the record, this is the fourth time the library district has used the police as a tool of harassment against me.

The plan was to keep using the police as goons, keep "building the record", until I'd be too scared of the next escalation that I'd give up and back down and stop criticizing the library.

My husband, my parents, and my neighbors all told me that I should be afraid and that the Library Board was clearly surprisingly powerful in that the police jumped when the Board told them to. I have to admit it was scary when the police officer called me, but by the next morning the adrenaline had worn off and I kept replaying his call on YouTube and point by point saw that he was either lying to me or had no clue what he was talking about most of the time he was threatening me. Consultation with lawyers in the know confirmed it was all bull hockey and bluster from the boys in blue.

I posted a transcript of the YouTube video to my Facebook as a note and — you guessed it — Nancy Wendt Healy called the police yet again, this time to complain that her address was included in the transcript because the police officer had said it in his call to threaten me. This is a second act of disorderly conduct for Ms. Healy, because no reasonable person would have believed there was ground for believing that posting a transcript to Facebook is an illegal offense, especially considering her address is public knowledge and has been published in no less than two newspapers.

I complained about the Library Board's abuse of the Orland Park police to Police Chief McCarthy, but he purposefully chose to ignore my letter to him. I went to see him in person, and he refused to meet with me. But, in speaking with Lt. Keating while Chief McCarthy stayed hidden behind a door somewhere, I quickly saw that the Police Department knew it was in the wrong and was just hoping and praying I'd be too scared of going up against them to continue speaking out about this. Lt. Keating even told me (in a bald-faced lie) that Nancy Healy called them in an unofficial capacity as a private citizen. When you hear the tape, this is how she identifies herself in the call:

"My name is Nancy Healy, I'm um, President of the Orland Park Library Board of Trustees..."

It doesn't get more "official" than that. Healy is an elected official calling the police in her official capacity to use her weight to get them to do her bidding against a private citizen for no reason whatsoever. When I complained to Lt. Keating about Officer Carone lying to me about sending Healy mail through the US Postal Service, he replied, "Maybe I should advise Ms. Healy to get an order of protection against you."

When I asked him if that was a threat he backed off immediately. I advised him that I would like to see him try to get a judge to order me to stop sending non-threatening letters about policy to an elected official. Good luck with that, Lt. Keating.

I filed a complaint with the Orland Park Fire & Police Commission, but they too chose to not respond to me. The pattern here seems to be that local elected officials have the power to get the police to respond to them and be deployed against their critics and opponents, but when a member of the public is being harassed by elected officials using the police as a goon squad then the police and every board or official in place to stop such a thing just ignores that citizen.

Meanwhile, I continued to speak out at Board Meetings and the Library Board began stacking the meetings with stooges and plants, including one unhinged man who continuously makes personal attacks and tells lies about me during the meetings (even accusing me of working with Al Qaeda and claiming he has called the FBI to investigate me!). All because I'm a mom in the suburbs who opposes child porn being accessible for men to arouse themselves and masturbate to in the Orland Park Public Library.

My next step is filing a complaint about all of this retaliation with the Illinois Department of Human Rights. (I didn't even know there was such a thing!) The ACLU declined to help me, of course, because of who I am: a conservative, Christian woman who sings songs about the 2nd Amendment. But surprisingly, the ACLJ also declined to help me with no explanation. The State's Attorney's office also declined to help me even though they are supposed to help citizens who are being harassed by police. No one will help me, so I will just have to continue helping myself and standing up to the tyrants of the Library Board and their goon squad police department.

It's sobering to think that a *Library Board* is doing all of this. In some of the documents I received responsive to FOIA requests I came across a few Village of Orland Park employees being shocked that "somebody's angry with the Library Board!". Most people have a default picture of a library board and nothing bad happening in libraries, but I think this is a canary in the coal mine, folks.

It ties into what happened in Boston earlier in the year and what's happening all across the country where black armored vehicles and drones in the sky are rolling along or soaring over Main Streets. Every day, a little bit of our liberty dies because those we elect to office no longer see themselves as servants of the people and the police officers no longer believe they are there to protect and serve the public, but instead willingly exist as the shock troops and private military of petty would-be tyrants in the Governor's mansion, Mayor's office, and even Library Board.

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