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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mary Rasenberger

July 10, 2018

Mr. John Blackmon, President

Fraternal Order of Police Tri-County Lodge #3

P.O. Box 64469

North Charleston, SC 29419-2469

Dear President Blackmon:

I write on behalf of the Authors Guild, the nation's largest advocacy organization for professional writers. We understand that the Tri-County Fraternal Order of Policy Lodge #3 has pressured local educators to eliminate two novels from a Wando High School summer reading list: *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas and *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely, both of which address issues of race and police violence.

This interference – which is clearly based on the content of the books in question – must stop. It is a blatant violation of students' first amendment rights and an improper attempt at censorship by law-enforcement officials. It is a fundamental principle of democracy that police have no proper role in deciding what books should or should not be read. We have already co-signed a letter to the principal of Wando High School to urge the school to abide by its own internal processes, and we ask the FOP to cease its efforts to influence that process.

Attempts at censorship by law enforcement organizations cannot be tolerated. Educators must be free to choose books on any and all subjects for their students' reading.

Sincerely yours,



Mary Rasenberger  
Executive Director



James Gleick  
President