

Oct 11, 2021

Request for Reconsideration: Deadwood
Prepared by Tara Alcock, Library Director

The Petersburg Public Library added *Deadwood* to the collection in 2004. The series was very popular when first added to the collection remains a relatively popular show that we receive patron requests for. Twelve public libraries in the Alaska Library Consortium own the series. In my opinion, the series meets the requirements of the library's Selection of Material Policy and should remain in the collection. While, according to library policy, the Library Director is vested with the authority to either retain or remove materials, I feel that given my decision to retain this series the Board should review my decision. I believe it is important to give Mr. Gilliland's request full consideration from multiple points of view.

These documents are included in the meeting packet to inform the Board's discussion of the issue:

1. Request for Reconsideration of Material Form submitted by Harvey Gilliland Oct 1, 2021
2. Selection of Library Material Policy & Intellectual Freedom Policy
3. Library Bill of Rights (American Library Association)
4. Rating systems: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights (American Library Association)

Information about Deadwood from Wikipedia:

Deadwood is an American Western television series that aired on the premium cable network HBO from March 21, 2004, to August 27, 2006, spanning three seasons and 36 episodes.

Deadwood received critical acclaim, particularly for Milch's writing and McShane's performance, and is regarded as one of the greatest television shows of all time. It also won eight Emmy Awards (in 28 nominations) and one Golden Globe.

From its debut, *Deadwood* drew attention for its extensive profanity. The historical accuracy and dramatic intent of its use of obscenities has been the subject of controversy and discussion.

Deadwood received almost universal praise from critics over the course of its three-year run. On Metacritic, the first season has an 80 out of 100 score sampled from 26 critics, indicating "generally favorable reviews". The second season scored 93 out of 100 based on 15 critics, and third season scored 85 out of 100 based on 20 critics, both indicating "universal acclaim", with only one mixed review of the third season coming from *Newsday*'s Verne Gay. “

Rating information:

Deadwood is rated TV-MA (TV Parental Guidelines: <http://www.tvguidelines.org/>). According to TV Parental Guidelines,

“This program is intended to be viewed by mature, adult audiences and may be unsuitable for children under 17.”

Further information on TV-MA rating from Wikipedia:

“Contains content that is unsuitable for children. This rating was originally TV-M prior to the announced revisions to the rating system in August 1997 but was changed due to a trademark dispute and in order to remove confusion with the Entertainment Software Rating Board's (ESRB) "M for Mature" rating for video games. This rating is used by broadcast networks or local television stations due to FCC restrictions on program content, although it is commonly applied to television programs featured on certain cable channels (basic and premium networks) and streaming networks for both mainstream and softcore programs. Programs with this rating may include crude indecent language, explicit sexual activity and graphic violence.”