



**City of Friendswood
News Release
January 27, 2006**

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**For Immediate Release:
January 27, 2006**

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**City of Friendswood Mayor Kim Brizendine Issues Statement
Regarding 'Galveston County Reads Day' Proclamation**

Friendswood, TX – January 27, 2006 – On Monday, January 23, 2006, a proclamation was issued by the Friendswood Office of the Mayor in support of the Galveston County Reads Program at the request of the Director of the Friendswood Library Services. This year, the program chose to read Mark Haddon's book, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. The proclamation specifically encouraged "all citizens, teens to seniors" to read this book. After the proclamation was issued, it was brought to the Mayor's attention that the proclamation included an age group that, in his opinion, is not appropriate for some of the book's content.

The following is a message from Mayor Kim Brizendine regarding this issue:

When issuing this proclamation, it was not incumbent upon the office of the Mayor to determine its age appropriateness. That said, it is not my intention to endorse this readership for our younger readers, and it is my belief that this discretion should be left to the parents of our youth. I am personally concerned over some of the substance in this book, and I regret endorsing this text to younger teens. After this proclamation was issued, the Director of the Friendswood Library Services informed me that it was never her intent to recommend this book for younger teens as well. She also expressed to me that it was not her intent to put me in the position of determining the age appropriateness of any materials, including this particular text. She apologized to me and to the Friendswood City Council for not choosing the wording of the proclamation more carefully, and for putting me in the position of promoting a book that may be deemed inappropriate for some readers.

I am and will continue to be an advocate of reading, and I regret any oversight or misinterpretation associated with the content and context of this book. The Library Board will be reviewing the Board policies to make

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certain that age is appropriately considered when selecting the sections of the Library where books should be placed. The Friendswood Public Library has served and will continue to serve as a beacon of learning and intellectual growth for readers of all ages in the City of Friendswood, and I am proud that we have such an invaluable resource available to our citizens.

Individuals can register for instant e-mail alerts regarding emergency notices or any City information. These notices will be generated automatically from the City to the e-mail address that is registered. Go to the City's website at www.ci.friendswood.tx.us and click on "Sign Up for E-mail Alerts". Please monitor the City's website for regular updates, or contact the City Manager's Office at 281-996-3250. Citizens may also monitor the City of Friendswood Information Channel, AM 1650.

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