

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-03

**RESOLUTION URGING BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO ADOPT RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING LIBRARY COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH LIBRARY FEE AMNESTY
PROGRAM IN 2017 FOR OVERDUE LIBRARY MATERIALS**

WHEREAS, In 2001, the Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance No. 64-01, adding Section 8.21-3 to the San Francisco Administrative Code, authorizing the Library Commission to establish a two-week Library fee amnesty program in 2001 excusing persons who return all overdue Library materials on their Library account from having to pay any late fees; and

WHEREAS, During the two-week amnesty period in 2001, approximately 5,400 overdue materials were returned to the Library, with a total value of approximately \$100,000; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, the Library conducted another amnesty program under Section 8.21-3 of the Administrative Code, upon approval of a resolution by the Board of Supervisors. Approximately 29,000 overdue materials were returned to the Library, with a total value of approximately \$730,700; and

WHEREAS, There has not been a Library fee amnesty period since 2009; and

WHEREAS, Amnesty programs for overdue Library materials give Library patrons the opportunity to return Library materials and thereby make them available to the public again. Moreover, Library patrons with a fine balance of over ten dollars are prevented from actively borrowing Library materials, and fee amnesty gives those patrons the opportunity to regain access to the Library's collections; and

WHEREAS, Amnesty programs for overdue Library materials and outstanding overdue fines are particularly important to individuals experiencing economic hardship when fines may pose an economic barrier to Library access for patrons who could benefit from Library resources; and

WHEREAS, The Library Commission finds that holding an amnesty program in 2017, for overdue fines for patrons who return overdue Library materials during the amnesty period and for overdue fines incurred prior to the amnesty period where the patron has returned all outstanding materials to the Library is likely to promote the return of needed Library materials and promote the increased use of the Library; and

WHEREAS, Section 8.21-3 provides that the Board of Supervisors may, by resolution, authorize the Library Commission to establish subsequent Library fee amnesty programs under the standards set forth in Section 8.21-3; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That based on the above findings made at its noticed public hearing on September 15, 2016, the Library Commission hereby endorses the establishment of a fee amnesty program under Section 8.21-3 of the Administrative Code during the six-week period from January 3 – February 14, 2017 for patrons who participate in the program by returning all overdue materials during the amnesty period or requesting waiver of overdue fines on materials previously returned to the Library; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Library Commission urges the Board of Supervisors to adopt the Resolution attached hereto, and should the Board adopt the Resolution or a resolution in substantially similar form, authorizes the City Librarian to take all steps necessary to establish a fee amnesty program for overdue Library materials and outstanding overdue fines for the six-week period of January 3 – February 14, 2017 under the standards set forth in Section 8.21-3 of the Administrative Code.

Approved on September 15, 2016

By a vote of 5-0 (Dunning, Lee, Nguyen, Ono and Wardell-Ghirarduzzi



Commission Secretary

Attachment: Draft Board of Supervisors Resolution