



*San Francisco Public Library*

# SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Fine-Free Initiative

June 19, 2019



File # 190631  
Received in Committee - 6/19/19  
for

# SFPL Fine-Free Initiative

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SFPL & SF Financial Justice Project  
partnered to study the impact of library  
overdue fines on patrons

**Project determined that overdue fines:**

- Restrict access & exacerbate inequality
- Disproportionately affect low-income population, racial minorities, and those without college degrees

The Library Commission approved resolutions to eliminate overdue fines & all outstanding overdue fine liability

## LONG OVERDUE:

Eliminating Fines on  
Overdue Materials  
to Improve Access to San  
Francisco Public Library

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JANUARY 2019

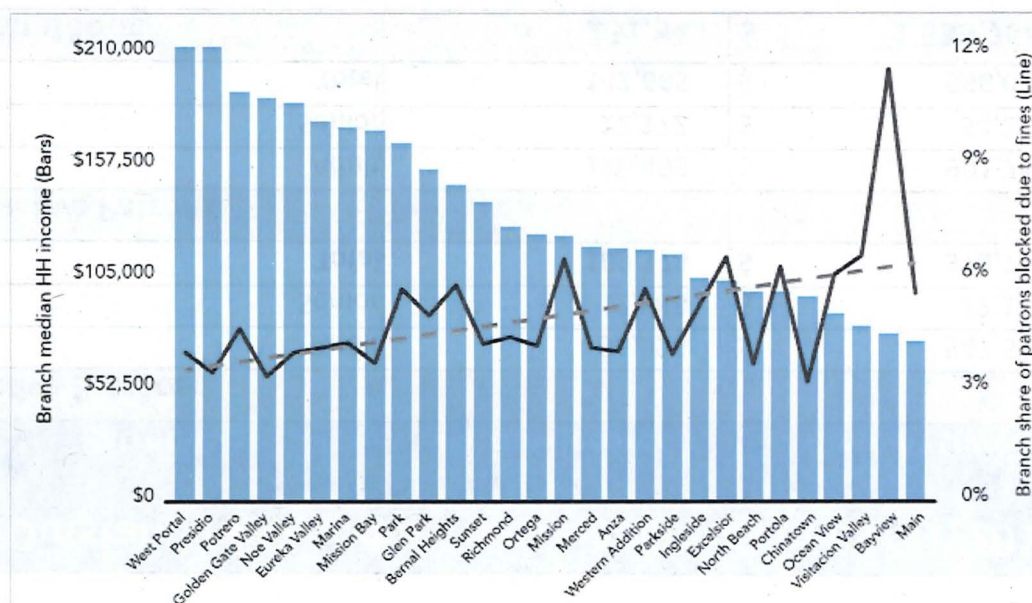
*\* Source: [Long Overdue: Eliminating Fines on Overdue Materials to Improve Access to San Francisco Public Library \(2019\)](#)*

# SFPL Fine-Free Initiative

## Access & Equity Considerations

- Approximately **17,500** patron accounts are currently suspended as a result of overdue fines, representing 5 percent of all adult patrons

In locations with lower average household income, larger shares of SFPL adult cardholders are blocked due to fines



# SFPL Fine-Free Initiative

## Fiscal Impact

- Estimated loss of annual overdue fine revenue: \$0.3M
- Estimated outstanding overdue fine liability: \$1.5M

### Outstanding Overdue Fines Liability as of 05/31/2019

Patron Type	Patron Records	Amount Owed
<b>Active Patrons</b>		
Adult	96,590	\$ 547,597.07
Senior	12,588	\$ 32,134.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>109,178</b>	<b>\$ 579,731.36</b>
<b>Inactive Patrons</b>		
Adult	130,493	\$ 901,750.31
Senior	12,172	\$ 54,283.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>142,665</b>	<b>\$ 956,033.61</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>251,843</b>	<b>\$ 1,535,764.97</b>

# SFPL Fine-Free Initiative

## Implementation

- SFPL is currently **piloting the fine-free service model** to prepare staff & patrons for full implementation
- If approved, full implementation is **scheduled to go live in Fall 2019**
- SFPL would join a growing **list of prominent public libraries to go fine-free**

## Selected Fine-Free Libraries

Salt Lake City Public Library (UT)	San Mateo County Public Library (CA)
Berkeley Public Library (CA)	Contra Costa County Public Library (CA)
Nashville Public Library (TN)	Maricopa County Library (AZ)
Saint Paul Public Library (MN)	Evansville-Vanderburgh Public Library (IN)
Oak Park Public Library (IL)	Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library (FL)
San Diego Public Library (CA)	Miami-Dade Public Library (FL)
Sno-Isle Public Library (WA)	Dayton Metro Library (OH)
Albany Public Library (NY)	Columbus Metropolitan Library (OH)
Denver Public Library (CO)	DC Public Library (Washington, DC)
Dallas Public Library (TX)	Enoch Pratt Free Library (MD)

# SFPL Fine-Free Initiative

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## Requests

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Board of Supervisors approval to **revise the Library's Fines & Fees Schedule to eliminate overdue fines** for all library materials & equipment

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Board of Supervisors approval to **forgive all outstanding overdue fines owed** to the Library