

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 2019 - 02

RESOLUTION URGING BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO ADOPT ORDINANCE FORGIVING ALL LIBRARY FINES OWED TO COMMENCE WITH AMENDED FINES AND FEES SCHEDULE.

WHEREAS, Section 8.21-2 of the San Francisco Administrative Code sets the fines and fees schedule for the San Francisco Public Library ("Library") system; and,

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors last amended the Library's fines and fees schedule set forth in Section 8.21-2 in 2017; and,

WHEREAS, In the time since the fines and fees schedule was last amended, the Library has recognized that the application of fines for overdue materials imposes an unfair barrier to access, which disproportionately impacts residents of lower socioeconomic status; and,

WHEREAS, To correct this disproportionate impact and ensure access to library services is equitable for all patrons, during the Library Commission meeting of January 17, 2019, the Library Commission approved changes to the fines and fees schedule contained in Section 8.21-2, eliminating overdue fines for all Library materials and equipment; and,

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 2.109 of the City Charter, the fines and fees schedule cannot be amended without approval by the Board of Supervisors; and,

WHEREAS, Contingent upon the Library's fines and fees schedule being amended by the Board of Supervisors to eliminate overdue fines for all Library materials and equipment, the levy of future fines for overdue Library materials and equipment on patrons' accounts will no longer occur; and,

WHEREAS, To date, Library patrons previously have incurred overdue fines for Library materials and equipment borrowed and not returned prior to the due date, and may have outstanding debt resulting from unpaid overdue fines remaining on their accounts, restricting their access to library collections and services; and,

WHEREAS, the Library Commission recognizes that the forgiveness of remaining existing overdue fines will eliminate barriers to the use and enjoyment of the Library, and benefit residents by increasing access to library services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Library Commission urges the Board of Supervisors to pass an ordinance forgiving all outstanding overdue fines owed to the Library and authorizing the San Francisco Public Library to write-off all overdue fines from patron accounts as stated in this resolution.

Approved on: March 21, 2019

By a vote of: 4 - 0

AYES: Huang, Ono, Wardell-Ghirarduzzi, and Wolf

NAYS: none



Sue Blackman

Library Commission Secretary

Attachment: Draft Ordinance