



*San Francisco Public Library*

Date: September 15, 2016

To: Library Commission

From: Luis Herrera, City Librarian

**Subject: Library Fines and Fees Amnesty Program**

At the August 18 meeting the Library Commission heard a presentation for the Library to consider offering a renewed Library fee amnesty program for the first time since 2009. The Library Commission discussed the proposal and provided guidance for library staff to proceed with planning. The prospective fines and fees amnesty would be consistent with Section 8.21-3 to the San Francisco Administrative Code, authorizing the Library Commission to establish a Library fee amnesty program excusing persons who return all overdue Library materials on their Library account from having to pay any late fees.

The Library is committed to achieving similar goals with a renewed Library Fee Amnesty Program. Specifically the amnesty program will seek to recover outstanding library materials. Previous fee amnesty programs have yielded library material recovery rates ranging from 5.1% in 1998 to 23.68% in the most recent fine amnesty in 2009. Based on past amnesty programs success in recovering library collections, the Library projects the next fee amnesty program will recover a range of 9,459 items on the low end to 44,178 items on the high end for current numbers of items in an overdue and/or billed status.

The major goal of the next prospective fee amnesty program will be to restore borrowing privileges to tens of thousands of library patrons. Currently the Library has 55,256 patrons who owe an outstanding balance of \$10.01 or more in library fines and/or fees. In evaluating the library material recovery rates from past amnesty programs and projecting the anticipated amount of overdue fines to be waived during the next fee amnesty program, the Library expects to forego a range of uncollected fine revenue in the amount of \$15,975 on the low end to \$76,782 on the high end.

The overall fiscal impact is projected to have a net positive impact in that the value of materials expected to be recovered will be worth \$40,725 on the low end and up to \$203,775 on the high end, when calculating the average value at \$25 per library item. The projected positive impact of the next fee amnesty program is estimated to be from \$24,750 on the low end to \$126,993 on the high end when calculating the value of library materials recovered less the uncollected overdue fines to be waived.

Library Management recommends the Library Commission approve a resolution urging the Board of Supervisors to establish a fee amnesty program for overdue Library materials to take place during a six week period from January 3 – February 14, 2017, pursuant to Section 8.21-3 of the San Francisco Administrative Code.