



San Francisco Public Library

Date: August 18, 2016

To: Library Commission

From: Luis Herrera, City Librarian

Subject: Library Fines and Fees Amnesty Program

Background

Consistent with recent Library Commission activity to eliminate barriers to access and increase library usage through revisions to the Library Fines and Fee Schedule, the San Francisco Public Library is proposing to offer a new Library Fee Amnesty Program in the fall of 2016.

In April 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 Library fee amnesty program excusing persons who return all overdue Library materials on their Library account from having to pay any late fees to take place during a two-week period in 2001. Section 8.21-3 provides that the Board of Supervisors may, by resolution, authorize the Library Commission to establish subsequent fee amnesty programs for overdue Library materials under the same terms and conditions set forth in Section 8.21-3.

The San Francisco Public Library has offered Library Fee Amnesty Programs three times over the past 18 years (1998, 2001 and 2009). The most recent Library Fee Amnesty Program was authorized by the Board of Supervisors in April 2009 and was very successful in meeting the Library's stated goals of 1) returning items to the collection for use by the community and 2) assisting patrons in restoring their ability to borrow from the Library's collections.

The Library is interested in achieving similar goals with a renewed Library Fee Amnesty Program. Specifically the recovery of library collections, welcoming inactive patrons back and stimulating greater usage of library services while addressing the Library's outstanding liability, remain relevant outcomes as the Library continues to strive for eliminating barriers to access. The exact scope, duration and components of the next Library Fee Amnesty Program are subject for discussion / to be determined, however the Library recommends the Library Commission consider the introduction of a Resolution to the Board of Supervisors amending the San Francisco Administrative Code Section 8.21-3. The amendment would set new terms and conditions in order to authorize waivers both for persons who return all overdue Library materials on their Library account from having to pay any late fees and for persons who have already returned any overdue Library materials prior to the prospective amnesty period. Such an amendment would enhance the positive impact of future Library Fee Amnesty Programs.