

MEETING DATE: July 23, 2020

Regular Business # 3

TO: Library Board of Trustees

FROM: Judy Booth, Library Director

SUBJECT: WAIVE COVID-19 RELATED FINES

SUMMARY

As a response to considerations of the inability for some patrons to be able to return checked-out items to the Library between January and March 2020 due to the COVID-19, it is recommended that the library be allowed to waive all fines and fees added to patron's accounts during this period of time. Library staff are also concerned that patrons will be blocked from checking out materials at a time when the resources from public libraries are needed more than ever.

RECOMMENDATION

As a response to the impacts of fines and fees on library patrons who may be experiencing hardship during these difficult times, and do not have the ability to pay fines and fees they received during the pandemic, library staff suggest that we waive all library fees that the more than 700 library patrons received on their accounts between January 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020 for a total of approximately \$3,675.67.

FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated cost of lost revenue from waiving of these fines is \$3675.67.

DISCUSSION

Fullerton Public Library strives to provide equitable and barrier-free access to information and library services. Library staff believe that the waiving of fines is even more important during the current pandemic. In addition to encouraging the return of materials, improving customer service, reducing undue stress placed on patrons who may be experiencing financial hardship, and the inability of patrons to be able to pay fines other than online by credit card. Research proves that monetary fines present an economic barrier to access of library materials and services. This is a time when we want to eliminate all barriers to public library access and encourage library usage.