

# **City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska**

**Tuesday, February 16, 2021**

**Regular Meeting**

## **Item Reports1**

**Council to discuss and consider action on ceasing to charge fees for overdue items at the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library.**

**Staff Contact: Erin Aschenbrenner, Library Director**

# Agenda Statement

Item No.

For Meeting of: 2/16/2021

**AGENDA TITLE:** Fine Free Library

**SUBMITTED BY DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION:** Library

**PRESENTATION BY:** Erin Aschenbrenner, Library Director

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION:** The Library Director requests the council's approval to cease charging fees for overdue items at the library. The library will still charge for damaged or lost items.

**BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** The Library Director requests the council's approval to cease charging fees for overdue items at the library. The library will still charge for damaged or lost items.

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### EXHIBITS

Resolution     Ordinance     Contract     Minutes     Plan/Map

Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTIFICATION LIST:** Yes  No  Further Instructions   
Please list names and addresses required for notification.

**APPROVAL FOR SUBMITTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager

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Rev: 11/15/12 City Clerk

### **What does going fine free mean?**

- Late fees are eliminated (currently 10 cents per day for books and \$1 per day for DVDs)
- Fines are still assessed for lost or damaged items

### **Why should we go fine free?**

- The American Library Association (ALA) has passed a resolution recognizing library fines as a form of social inequality and has called for libraries nationwide to eliminate fines
  - Late fees disproportionately affect low-income residents, the population we are most dedicated to serving
- Fines create adversarial relationships between staff and patrons
- Fines prevent patrons from accessing other library resources (such as public computers and digital downloads) or utilizing the library altogether from fear of incurring debt
- Research shows eliminating late fees results in a higher rate of returns overall
- Improve the relationship with our current patrons and increase new patrons

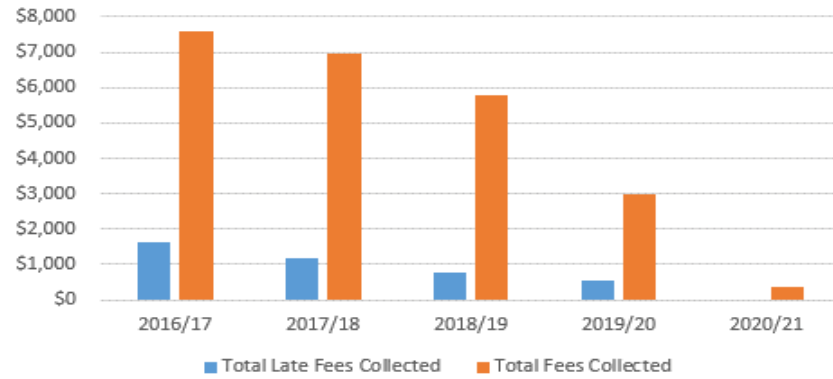
### **Why it will work for Scottsbluff.**

- We already have two fine-free days each week, Wednesday and Saturday
- We have been waiving the majority of late fees due to COVID and the feedback has been incredibly positive
- Data shows the income from late fees is minimal, the majority comes from lost/damaged items (see attached financial statistics)

# Library Late Fees Worksheet

	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019	FY 2019-2020	FY 2020-2021
<b>Total Late Fees</b>	<b>\$1,651</b>	<b>\$1,187</b>	<b>\$792</b>	<b>\$530</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total Fees (Late/Lost/Damaged)</b>	<b>\$7,600</b>	<b>\$6,937</b>	<b>\$5,779</b>	<b>\$2,967</b>	<b>\$371</b>
<b>Late Fee % of Total Fees</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Late Fee % of Total Revenue</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>0%</b>

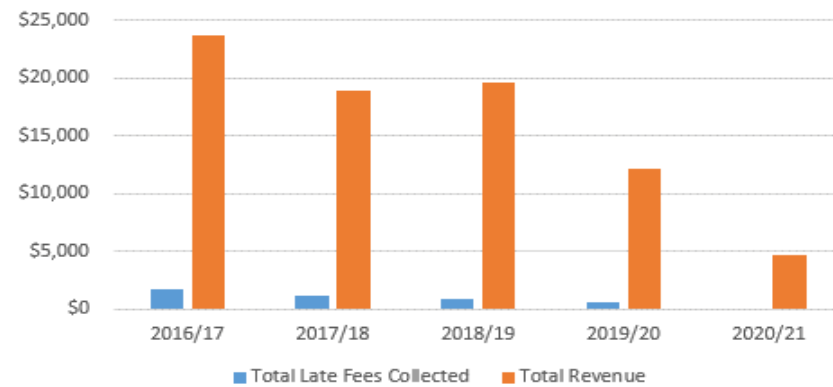
Library Late Fees vs. Total Fees



Fee Trend Previous 5 Years

FY	Total Fees
2016-2017	7600
2017-2018	6937
2018-2019	5779
2019-2020	2967
2020-2021	371

Library Late Fees vs. Total Revenue



Total Fees Previous 5 Years

