

TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL

Town Hall 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: [20-0159] Version: 1 Name:

Type: Discussion Item Status: Filed

File created: 2/10/2020 In control: Town Council

On agenda: 2/26/2020 Final action: 2/26/2020

Title: Discuss Library Overdue Fine Policy.

Sponsors:

Indexes:

Code sections:

Attachments: 1. Draft Staff Presentation, 2. Chapel Hill Public Library Advisory Board Request, 3. LCI Fine Free

Policies Report 2019, 4. ALA Resolution on Monetary Library Fines as a Form of Social Inequity, 5.

Staff Presentation, 6. Council Questions with Staff Response

 Date
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 Action By
 Action
 Result

 2/26/2020
 1
 Town Council
 received and filed

Discuss Library Overdue Fine Policy.

Staff: Department:

Susan Brown, Library Director Library

Meeghan Rosen, Assistant Director

Overview: In October 2019, the Library Advisory Board petitioned Council to adopt a "fine-free model for the Chapel Hill Public Library as part of the 2020/2021 budget," stating that "library fines represent a social equity issue." This item provides information about impacts of the current fine policy and potential impacts of a fine-free model.

The Town charges \$0.25/day in overdue fines for items not returned on time. People owing \$25 or more in outstanding charges are blocked from using their library card.



Recommendation(s):

That the Council consider the Library Advisory Board's Petition and provide direction to staff regarding the Chapel Hill Public Library's Overdue Fine Policy.

Key Issues:

- Overdue fines are a source of revenue
- Overdue fines are a barrier to library access
- Overdue fines are not an incentive to return borrowed items

Fiscal Impact/Resources: The FY2020 budget for overdue fines is \$32,000.



Attachments:

- Draft Staff Presentation
- Chapel Hill Public Library Advisory Board Request

File #: [20-0159], Version: 1

- LCI Fine Free Policies Report 2019
- ALA Resolution on Monetary Library Fines as a Form of Social Inequity

The Agenda will reflect the text below and/or the motion text will be used during the meeting.

PRESENTER: Susan Brown, Library Director

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council consider the Library Advisory Board's Petition and provide direction to staff regarding the Chapel Hill Public Library's Overdue Fine Policy.