



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	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
2/26/2020	1	Town Council		received and filed

Discuss Library Overdue Fine Policy.

Staff:

Susan Brown, Library Director
Meeghan Rosen, Assistant Director

Department:

Library

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

- 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.