



## Legislation Text

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

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### 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

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**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.