



City of Arts & Innovation

Board of Library Trustees

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

DATE: AUGUST 26, 2019

FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

SUBJECT: ARTICLE FROM THE MERCURY NEWS TITLED "ARE LIBRARY LATE FEES ON THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION?"

ISSUE:

Receive and file this update on an article from The Mercury News titled "Are Library Late Fees on the Verge of Extinction?"

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Library Trustees receive and file this update on an article from The Mercury News titled "Are Library Late Fees on the Verge of Extinction?"

BACKGROUND:

An article from The Mercury News (mercurynews.com) dated May 31, 2019 titled "Are Library Late Fines on the Verge of Extinction?" Written by Patrick May is attached for your review.

DISCUSSION:

The attached article discusses how a number of library jurisdictions have eliminated overdue fees for library materials including books, audiobooks, CDs and DVDs. Specifically, it focuses on Oakland Public Library as the jurisdiction was set to eliminate fines on July 1, 2019. It also looks at a partnership in San Francisco between the Library and the Financial Justice Project that looked at how best to assess and reform the overdue fines. In both locations one of the key findings was that fines create unequal barriers to library access within the communities served.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Erin Christmas, Library Director

Certified as to

availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer

Approved by: Lea Deesing, Assistant City Manager

Attachment: Article