



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

Assembly Memorandum

No. AM - 20xx

Meeting Date: _____

1 **From:** MAYOR

2
3 **Subject:** [If supporting an AO or AR, **PASTE** TITLE OF AO or AR HERE; if
4 stand alone AM, describe action]
5
6
7

8 On November 19th, 2019, the Anchorage Assembly approved the Fiscal
9 Year 2020 budget for APL which included removal of all library overdue fine
10 revenue. On January 1st, 2020, Anchorage Public Library removed all overdue
11 library fines. This was continued in all subsequent municipal budgets. Current
12 Municipal code requires fines for library materials when they are overdue, lost, or
13 damaged. This ordinance proposes to remove the fines due from materials when
14 they are returned but overdue.
15

16 Prior to 2020, Anchorage Public Library (APL) had higher than average
17 late fines (\$0.50/day) compared to other public libraries, and an account was
18 blocked for unpaid fines at \$25. In 2019 fines collected from APL patrons
19 accounted for only 0.7% of APL's operating budget. Since removing late fines,
20 the amount of items in lost status (more than 62 days overdue) has decreased by
21 93 percent making these materials available for other residents. The number of
22 accounts in a blocked status, unable to use Library resources, has decreased by
23 almost 12 percent. The amount of Library users sent to collections for unpaid
24 fines and fees has decreased 94 percent.
25

26 The proposed ordinance would allow for APL materials to be returned to
27 any library location after the due date with no cost to the patron. The proposed
28 ordinance also updates the schedule used to collect lost and damaged book
29 fees, as well as processing fees.
30

31 Currently, all Library user fees such as room rentals, photocopy charges,
32 proctoring fees, et al are listed in code. We propose to remove them from
33 Municipal code and instead list them in Library policy. This will allow for more
34 timely adjustments to these fines and fees and is similar to how user fees are
35 handled for the Parks and Recreation facilities.
36

37
38 **THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.**
39

1 Prepared by: Elizabeth Nicolai, Anchorage Public Library
2 Approved by: [Dept. head]
3 Concur: [Head of other Dept. directly affected, if any]
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6 Concur: Ona Brause, OMB Director
7

8 [FOR AO with funds impact or AR appropriating funds, add:]

9 Fund certification: Alden Thern, CFO
10 (See Fund Certification guidelines)
11

12 Concur: Alden Thern, CFO [if no fund certification already]

13 Concur: Eva Gardener, Acting Municipal Attorney (required for
14 all AOs, some ARs)

15 Concur: Rebecca Windt Pearson, Municipal Manager

16 Respectfully submitted: Suzanne LaFrance, Mayor
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