



Memorandum

TO: MAYOR LICCARDO

FROM: Councilmember Pam Foley

SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

DATE: May 25, 2022

Approved

Date 05/25/2022

RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendation be enacted.

Proposal

Program/Project Title: San José Public Library Fine Forgiveness for Seniors 55+

Amount of City Funding Required: \$5,000

This change is:

One-time Ongoing

Cost Estimate Number (if applicable): CE-FY22-23:006

Proposal Description, including the reason for the need and anticipated outcomes (Please describe how the proposal will affect services for San José residents, community groups, businesses, etc.):

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected our city, greatly impacting our communities. Some of these communities continue to be impacted more than others. Our seniors 55+ continue to remain at risk of the COVID-19 virus. The risk to this vulnerable population could impact their ability to return library materials per their agreement when issued a library card.

While library fines are eliminated after four years, our Senior community is likely unaware of this practice and may refrain from using the tremendous products and services offered through our world-class library system if they know they may have accrued fines or late fees.

We applaud the Library for their response to the City's emergency declaration and response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as they paused the collection of late fees for all cardholders effective March 2020. Lost and damaged material fees remained in place, and the Library's revenue forecasts and actual collected revenues during 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 were significantly reduced due to this amnesty measure implementation.

Therefore, the Library can only project ongoing late fines estimates using historical fines collection data and patron behavior trends prior to the pandemic.

Averaging 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 senior late/overdue fines, the total ongoing cost to implement Fines Free for Seniors 55+ would be approximately \$36,007 annually. This amount is more reflective of the actual amount of revenue that would be lost annually if Seniors were “fine-free.” However, as the Administration took a more conservative approach to fine revenue coming out of the pandemic, the overall total fines revenue estimate for 2022-2023 is \$35,500. As a result, a one-time revenue reduction to waive fees for seniors in 2022-2023 is preliminarily estimated at \$5,000. The ongoing impact would need to be re-evaluated as part of a future budget cycle.

We would like to request a one-time amount of \$5000 be set aside to account for Seniors’ fines/late fees for the upcoming fiscal year 2022-23.

Funding Source

Essential Services Reserve:

Other (Please specify program/project/fund):

Department or Organization Contact

Please list the contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation:

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