



# MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: 6/9/2014)

## Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 6/2/16  
Agenda Item #: R.5  
Est. Start Time: 9:55 am approx.  
Date Submitted: 5/20/16

**Agenda Title:** Resolution Establishing Multnomah County Library fines and charges

*Note: Title should not be more than 2 lines but sufficient to describe the action requested. Title on APR must match title on Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation.*

### Requested

Meeting Date: June 2, 2016 Time Needed: 15 minutes

Department: Multnomah County Library District Division: Dept. Administration

Contact(s): Cindy Gibbon

Phone: 988-5496 Ext. 85496 I/O Address: 317/CEN

### Presenter

Name(s) & Title(s): Vailey Oehlke, Multnomah County Library Director; Cindy Gibbon, Access & Information Services Director

## General Information

### 1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Approve a Resolution that includes the elimination of fines on youth library accounts and for youth material and; continues existing practice of assessing fines and fees for late or unreturned material for adult accounts.

### 2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

Overdue fines can present barriers to using the library for children and families, reducing access to learning opportunities during periods of critical learning and development.

Right now, more than half Multnomah County Library's youth patrons have fines, and more than 8,000 accounts are blocked from checking out materials or using the library's computers. This change would remove existing fines and allow these young patrons to use the library again, without the burden of fines, collection agencies or red tape.

Managing library accounts is particularly challenging for people living in poverty. For many, a blocked library account results in a disincentive to use the library, thereby depriving youth of a range of learning and enrichment opportunities offered by the library. Some families do not use the library simply because they fear they might accrue fines.

Families living in poverty often lack the resources that make it easier to manage a library account. They may have no access to the Internet to keep track of their childrens' accounts and renew materials online. Transportation to return materials may be a barrier. Sometimes language barriers make it difficult for these patrons to understand how to manage their accounts.

Removing fines on youth materials and accounts and forgiving existing fines on those materials and accounts will remove barriers for thousands of youth and their families, allowing the library to serve the community in a more accessible and equitable fashion.

**3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).**

Annual revenue from youth fines in FY 2015 was \$329,292. The total budgeted fine revenue in the library district's FY 2017 budget projects estimated fine revenues of \$870,000 in anticipation of this change.

**4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.**

N/A

**5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.**

N/A

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**Required Signature**

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**Elected  
Official or  
Department  
Director:**

Vailey Oehlke /s/

**Date:**

May 20, 2016

*Note: Please submit electronically. Insert names of your approvers followed by /s/ - we no longer use actual signatures. Please insert date approved.*