

ORDINANCE NO. 20220217-034

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING EXHIBIT A TO ORDINANCE NO. 20210811-002
(CITY OF AUSTIN FEE AND FINE ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022)
TO REMOVE THE FEE FOR OVERDUE LIBRARY MATERIALS FOR ADULT
LIBRARY PATRONS.**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. FINDINGS.

1. The Austin Public Library's vision statement assures that "all members of the Austin community have equal access to Library services and programs."
2. In 2019, in acknowledgement that monetary library fines are a form of social inequity, the American Library Association passed a resolution encouraging libraries throughout the nation to discontinue fees for overdue library materials as a mechanism to increase library usage and expand access for all populations.
3. According to the Austin Public Library, approximately 400 libraries in the United States have opted to remove fines for overdue materials.
4. Unpaid late fees result in blocked access to our libraries' rich array of materials and resources. From 2018 to 2021, there were approximately 15,579 Austin Public Library patrons who had accrued late fees.
5. In 2019, the Austin Public Library eliminated fines for overdue children's materials.
6. On January 24, 2022, the City of Austin Library Commission unanimously recommended that Council eliminate the collection of fees for adult patrons' overdue Austin Public Library materials for the purposes of expanding equitable access to our libraries' resources and materials.

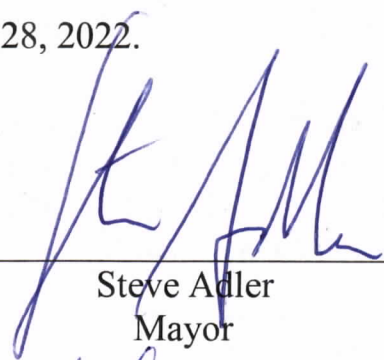
PART 2. Council amends Exhibit A to Ordinance No. 20210811-002 (*City of Austin Fee and Fine Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2021-2022*) to remove the fee for overdue library materials for adult library patrons as set forth in the Attachment 1 to this Ordinance.

PART 3. This ordinance takes effect on February 28, 2022.


PASSED AND APPROVED

_____, February 17, 2022

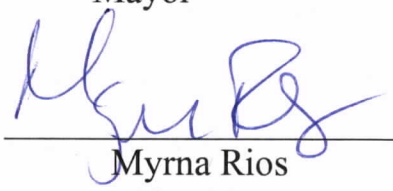
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Steve Adler
Mayor

APPROVED: 

Anne L. Morgan
City Attorney

ATTEST: 

Myrna Rios
City Clerk

Attachment 1: Removal of fees for overdue library materials for adult library patrons

FY 2021-22 Fee Schedule

Code Violations/Legal Penalties/Restitution

[Overdue] Charges and Fees

All Austin Public Library [Overdue] Charges and Fees shall be waived by the Library Director or their authorized designee in accordance with Library policy adopted by the Library Director, which shall permit fee or charge waivers only in the following circumstances:

1. Evidence, as required by Library policy, of catastrophic loss to library borrower's property caused by one of the following catastrophic natural events, and limited to those library charges and fees incurred after the date of the catastrophic event: Earthquake, Fire, Flood, Hurricane, Tornado.
2. Evidence, as required by Library policy, of loss due to theft, and limited to those library charges and fees incurred after the date of the loss.
3. Evidence, as required by Library policy, of hospitalization of library borrower, and limited to those library charges and fees incurred after the date(s) of the hospitalization.
4. Non-resident children who are currently enrolled in any school within Travis County are exempt from the Non-Resident User Fee.

[Extended Use Fee] Charges for Lost or Damaged Materials

["Kill A Watt" Electricity Usage Monitor	\$0.25	/item/day, \$10.00 maximum/item]
[Adult Materials	\$0.25	/item/day, \$10.00 maximum/item]
Delinquent Account Fee		
For accounts with outstanding balances \$25.00 and above	\$10.00	
[Digital Hose Water Meter	\$0.25	/item/day, \$10.00 maximum/item]
Items not returned after 28 days and presumed lost or returned damaged		/item
Cost to the library for item plus the recovery fee for the item		
Reserve Fee	\$1.00	/item
For reserves not picked up after expiration of hold period		
[Sunlight Calculator	\$0.25	/item/day, \$10.00 maximum/item]
[Laptops and electronic devices		
[Over 0 up to 5 hours overdue	\$1.00	/device /hour]
[Over 5 hours overdue	\$5.00	maximum/device/day]
Devices not returned by the close of the business day borrowed and presumed lost or returned damaged		
Cost to the Library for device plus recovery fee for the device		
Recovery Fee for Each Lost or Damaged Device	\$150.00	/device
Non-resident User Fee		
Non-Resident	\$120.00	/year
Non-Resident - Virtual Library Only	\$22.00	/year
Quarterly Non-Resident User Fee	\$30.00	/quarter