



Contact: Rebecca Kelley RKelley@sandiego.gov

C: (619) 384-5269

Date: February 20, 2018

SAN DIEGANS BARRED & BLOCKED FROM BORROWING BOOKS AT BRANCH LIBRARIES
City Considers Reforming System to Allow 128,032 Children and Families Access to Library Resources

San Diego, CA: On Wednesday, February 21st at 9:00 a.m., the City of San Diego's Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee will hear an item entitled "[Proposal for Moving from an Overdue Fine Model to a Materials Recovery Model and the Status of Current Overdue Fines.](#)"

Under the present system, San Diego Public Libraries issue overdue fines for delinquent material returns and for materials that have been lost. Patrons who reach a ten dollar (\$10.00) threshold of unpaid fines are barred from checking out library materials. According to a recent library report, there are 128,032 patrons (13,000 being children) who are not allowed to utilize resources at our public libraries. Several branch libraries located in low-income neighborhoods have more than 50% of patrons who are effectively blocked from library usage.

"After reviewing the Library Department's Report, I requested to have this item heard at my committee. This report clearly shows that the current library fine system is not working and inhibits San Diegans from having access to library resources. I believe the City of San Diego should forgive all existing late library fines and work with the private sector to proactively incentivize patrons to return library resources on time. The fact that we have branch libraries with as much as 50% of their potential patrons being barred from use, proves that we can do better to serve our residents," stated Councilmember Chris Cate.

The Library Department would also experience a savings of internal staff time presently consumed with the collection of library fines.

WHAT: City of San Diego Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee

WHERE: San Diego City Hall, Committee Chambers
202 C Street, 12th Floor, San Diego, CA 92101

WHEN: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

[Website](#) | [NextDoor](#)

Phone: (619) 236-6616 | Email: ChrisCate@SanDiego.gov



Blocked and Barred Patrons by Branch Library

