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SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARIES REINSTATE ACCESS FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES *City of San Diego Forgives Existing Late and Overdue Fines, Absolving 133,000 San Diegans*

San Diego, CA: On Tuesday, April 9th, during National Library Week, Councilmember Chris Cate, City leaders, and the San Diego Public Library Foundation will formally announce unbarring and unbanning 73,726 patrons from utilizing their neighborhood libraries. Public libraries are the backbone to every neighborhood and District 6 is home to four of them. At our libraries, new parents connect at infant story-time, school-based youth have a safe place to study, adults receive a second chance to earn a high school diploma, and seniors attend classes where they interact with one another. When we invest in our libraries, we invigorate our communities.

National Library Week is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening communities. This year's theme, "Libraries = Strong Communities," highlights how today's libraries are at the heart of our communities, providing critical resources, programs and expertise. Furthermore, public libraries offer a public space where all community members, regardless of age, culture or income level, can come together to connect and learn.

According to a [Library Department report](#) made at the City of San Diego's Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods Committee, there are 132,787 patrons who are unable to utilize resources at our public libraries. Several branch libraries located in low-income neighborhoods have more than 40% of patrons who are effectively blocked from library usage.

"I requested to have the Library Department present the topic of library fines at the Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee, which I chaired last year. I felt that banning a child from our public libraries due to an overdue book fine is unreasonable and contradictory to the mission of our libraries," stated Councilmember Chris Cate.

WHAT: Press Conference

WHERE: North Clairemont Library, 4616 Clairemont Drive, San Diego, CA 92117

WHEN: Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

WHO: Councilmember Chris Cate
Misty Jones, San Diego Public Library Director
San Diego Library Foundation members
Friends of the San Diego Public Library
Board of Library Commissioners

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