



A RESOLUTION ON LIBRARY LATE FEES

WHEREAS, the Stoughton Public Library has been established under Wisconsin State Statute Chapter 43 to provide free, equal and equitable access to information, resources and services for the local community;

WHEREAS, the Stoughton Public Library strives to be welcoming to all community members regardless of socioeconomic background;

WHEREAS, library fines are regressive and present a barrier to access of library materials and services;

WHEREAS, the American Library Association's policy B.4.2 (Free Access to Information) "asserts that the charging of fees and levies for information services, including those services utilizing the latest information technology, is discriminatory in publicly supported institutions providing library and information services;"

WHEREAS, research from other fine-free libraries indicate that fines do not increase return rates, and further that the cost of collecting and maintaining overdue fees often outweighs the revenue generated by them;

WHEREAS, there is mounting evidence that indicates eliminating library late fines increases library card adoption and library usage;

WHEREAS, the majority of Dane County public libraries have committed to going fine-free; and,

WHEREAS, late fees ultimately do not serve the core mission of the Stoughton Public Library;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Stoughton Public Library Board of Trustees shall, at a future date to be determined by the Board of Trustees in consultation with the Library Director, cease charging overdue fines on library materials;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Stoughton Public Library will continue to assess charges for lost and damaged materials; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Stoughton Public Library will continue to assess late fees for materials loaned from outside of the South Central Library System.



STOUGHTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Date Passed: 9/16/20

Vote: 8-0

Mike Vrenney
Authorized Signature

President
Title of Person signing