



August 14, 2019

TO: Library Advisory Commission
FROM: Gayathri Kanth, Assistant Director
RE: Follow-Up Information Re Library Fines

Thank you for discussing the Palo Alto City Library's fines at the June 27, 2019 LAC meeting. During the meeting, you recommended eliminating fines on policy terms and allowing Staff to begin exploring what potential offsets would be. I wanted to provide you some clarification about the potential offsets that you had mentioned in your recommendation.

As a service department, the library is not a traditional revenue generating department. Fines are collected to encourage patrons to return materials on time, not to realize a revenue target. Due to this, the revenue from fines very much depends on patron material return behavior. These fines collected by the library are not included in the library's budget but are collected as part of the City's General Fund.

In the fiscal year 2019, library collected \$59,000 as fines. The chart below traces fines collected from FY 2013 to FY 2019. We estimate that the FY19 revenue will be reduced by at least half once our automatic renewal policy takes effect in early September.

<i>Actuals</i>	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017*	FY2018	FY2019
12070 - LIBRARY FINES	\$145,726	\$128,376	\$100,838	\$115,096	\$63,961	\$65,713	\$59,920
<i>*Children's Fines eliminated in FY2017</i>							

I hope I have answered your questions and can provide further information if needed.