# PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: September 15, 2020	[ X ] Consent [ ] Ordinance	[	] Regular ] Public Hearing	
Department: Submitted By:C	ounty Library/Admi	inistrat	<u>ion</u>	
Submitted For: C	County Library/Administration			

#### I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion & Title: Staff recommends motion to approve waiving all remaining accrued overdue fines on children's library card accounts.

Summary: The Board of County Commissioners voted on September 10, 2019 to approve the elimination of charging new overdue fines and related changes to the library fee policy made effective October 1, 2019. Existing accrued fines on library card holder accounts remained in place. As of August 17, 2020, the Library System's database showed that 13,436 juvenile accounts had accrued overdue fine charges remaining for a total of \$77,616. The library estimates that at least 1,400 children's library card accounts are blocked due to these accrued overdue fines. Removal of these overdue fine charges will allow accounts to return to good standing and restore borrowing privileges. With the move to virtual education and the uncertainty regarding students returning to campus, the Library System anticipates increased use of its resources and services. Dropping barriers for children's accounts will allow families that might be in economic distress the ability to borrow library educational resources for home use. Accrued fees for lost or damaged materials will remain in place. Countywide (AH)

Background and Justification: Public libraries across the United States have been eliminating overdue fines and waiving pre-existing fines as they are perceived to be an impediment to service. Studies appear to show that fines do not incentivize people to return items on time. It is also argued that fines disproportionally effect those of limited financial means. Fines can create a negative customer interaction that may deter people from using the library. Since overdue fines can result in restricted borrowing and use of the library, they run counter to the library's educational mission to connect communities, inspire thought, and enrich lives.

=======================================	=========	
Recommended By:	(Douglas Crane)	9.1.2020
Department Director		Date
Approved By: Ill ARlu	(Todd Bonlarron)	9/3/2020
Assistant County Administrator		Date

#### II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

### A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	20 <u>2</u> 0	<b>20</b> 21	<b>20</b> 22	<b>20</b> <u>2</u> 3	202 <del>4</del>
Capital Expenditures Operating Costs External Revenues Program Income (County) In-Kind Match (County)		0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0
NET FISCAL IMPACT	77 <u>161</u> 6	0	0		_0
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	0	0_	0_	0	0
Is Item Included in Current Bu Budget Account No.:	ıdget? Fund <u>1180</u>	Dept <u>320</u>	Yes X Unit 3	No 3200 Sourc	e <u>2900</u>
Does this item include the use	e of federal fun	ds? Ye	s N	No <u>X</u>	

B.	Recommended	Sources	of Fu	nds/Sumn	nary of	<b>Fiscal</b>	<b>Impact</b>
----	-------------	---------	-------	----------	---------	---------------	---------------

Sources:

Impact: This reduction in revenue has been reflected in the FY 2020 budget submission.

**Departmental Fiscal Review:** C. (Director, Library Finance and Facilities)

## III. REVIEW COMMENTS:

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. And Control Commer	Α.	OFMB Fisca	l and/or	Contract Dev.	And Control	Comments
--	----	------------	----------	---------------	-------------	----------

Legal Sufficiency: B.

Herwey for Anne Heffant 9/2/2020
Assistant County Attorney

Other Department Review:

Department Director