



**NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
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**NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY SAYS “LATER” TO OVERDUE FINES**  
*Mayor, Library and Council Join to Eliminate Late Fines*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** - Nashville Public Library (NPL) patrons can borrow books, movies and music without accruing overdue fines beginning July 5. What’s more, NPL will erase overdue fines patrons currently owe.

The change should increase patrons’ access to the two million-plus books and other materials they can borrow with their free library cards.

“I don’t believe people should be penalized for being passionate about reading, and so I’m grateful that the Metro Council joined me in funding the elimination of overdue fines at Nashville Public Library,” said Mayor Megan Barry. “We hope this effort will encourage more Nashvillians to utilize the great services available at the library and reconnect patrons who may have stopped enjoying this public treasure because of their overdue fines in the past.”

The Library Board in February 2017 endorsed the proposal to eliminate overdue fines. Barry included the recommendation in her FY17-18 budget proposal to the Metropolitan Council.

“Accessibility for all in our community is a core value for Nashville Public Library; it’s at the center of how we view our library,” said NPL Director Kent Oliver. “That’s why it makes sense to do away with late fines. I want to thank our Library Board, Mayor Barry, and members of the Metro Council for supporting this measure.”

Until now, if patrons owed \$20 or more in overdue fines, use of their library cards would “freeze.” The Library will still charge patrons fees for lost, missing or damaged items.

**About Nashville Public Library**

NPL is the winner of the 2017 Library of the Year™ award, a national honor *Library Journal* and Gale present to outstanding public libraries. At NPL, a library card is free. It’s also priceless. The Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce in 2016 calculated the value of NPL’s services and

collections at \$2,951 per Nashville family and the direct impact of NPL on Davidson County at \$94 million. NPL maintains a collection of millions of items, including books, periodicals, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, and streaming and downloadable books, movies and music. The Library also offers more than 800 public-use computers, free art exhibits, educational programs, events for all ages, 24/7 reference assistance, online databases, interlibrary loan and special collections. Metro Archives, located at the Main Library, houses 5 million historic documents. Equal access is provided by the Talking Library audio reading service for the print disabled and Library Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. For more information, call 615-862-5800 or visit [library.nashville.org](http://library.nashville.org).

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