

From: [Rachel James](#)
To: [Nick Olberding](#); [Renee Dougherty](#); [Nick Novitsky](#)
Subject: Letter to the Library Board in advance of 1/5/22 meeting
Date: Tuesday, January 04, 2022 10:36:19 AM
Attachments: [ALA CD 38 RESOLUTION ON MONETARY LIBRARY FINES AS A FORM OF SOCIAL JUSTICE Revised 1_27_0.pdf](#)

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Please send this email to the Library Board for the 1/5/22 meeting.

To the Library Board and the Council Liaison Mr. Novitsky,

I am writing to voice my support for your effort to eliminate fines at the Columbia Heights Library.

I believe that by eliminating fines, our library can improve access for children, teens and low-income residents. I have personally heard several stories of youth and kids in our community who have been unable to use the library due to fines. Sometimes the fines are outside of their control due to split custody arrangements, inability to transport themselves to the library, or other factors.

My family members are heavy users of the library. My kids probably rack up about \$10-20 of fines each year on average, which we are able to pay due to our financial position. If we couldn't pay that amount, they would miss their bi-weekly haul of 15 books each. The wonderful community asset of our library would no longer benefit us.

A recent report showed that eliminating overdue fines removed barriers to access for children. <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/removingbarrierstoaccess>

The American Library Association recommends public libraries eliminate fines. I've attached their resolution as a pdf and here below.

Thank you for your work as a Library Board. I greatly appreciate it!

Rachel James, Columbia Heights resident