Report - Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services - January 13, 2003

Item No. 4 Library Videocassettes Fines
File L-1 (Vol. 16)

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 22, 2003, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services and submits the following to Council:

1. That the maximum overdue fines for videocassettes be adjusted from $18.00 per item to $10.00 per item.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the foregoing, including the execution of any documents related thereto.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 22, 2003, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 13, 2003, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services concurred in the administrative recommendation, and submitted its recommendation to Executive Policy Committee and Council.

Re: Library Videocassettes Fines

For submission to:	**The Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services**
Original report signed by:	**Ursula Stelman, Director, Community Services Department**
Report date:	December 17, 2002

In camera item: No

Recommendation(s):

That the maximum overdue fines for videocassettes be adjusted from $18.00 per item to $10.00 per item.

Report Summary

Key Issues:

- Council approval is required for changes to fees and charges that are different than cost of living adjustments.
- The current maximum fine per item for videocassettes is $18.00.
- The cost to the Library Services Division of purchasing many videos is now less than $18.00.
- Some members of the public are choosing to keep the videocassettes and pay the lower replacement cost rather than pay an $18.00 maximum fine.
- The Library Services Division proposes adjusting the current maximum videocassette overdue fine to $10.00 per item.
- It is anticipated that a lower maximum fine will increase videocassette circulation and daily fine revenue. This increase will offset the revenue lost by reducing the maximum fine from $18 to $10.

Implications of the Recommendation(s):

General Implications

X	None
	For the organization overall and/or for other departments
	For the community and/or organizations external to the City of Winnipeg
	Involves a multi-year contract

Comment: N/A

Policy implications

X	No
	Yes

Comment:

Financial Implications

X	Within approved current and/or capital budget
	Current and/or capital budget adjustment required

Comment: N/A

Report

Recommendation(s):

That the maximum overdue fines for videocassettes be adjusted from $18.00 per item to $10.00 per item.

Reason for the report:

Council approval is required for changes to fees and charges that are different than cost of living adjustments.

History:

The Library Services Division introduced videocassettes into its collections in the late 1980's with overdue fines of $4.00 per day and a maximum of $20.00 per item. The overdue fines were set at this rate due to the expensive nature of the medium at that time and the limited collection size.

In 1997 City Council approved a reduction of videocassette fines from $4.00 with a maximum of $20.00 to $2.00 per day with a maximum of $18 per item, as the size of the collection had increased and the cost of purchasing videocassettes came down.

Discussion:

The current maximum fine for videocassettes is $18.00. However, the cost of purchasing many of these videocassettes is less than $18.00 per item. Consequently, some members of the public are choosing to keep overdue videocassettes and pay the lower replacement cost rather than the $18.00 maximum fine. The Library Services Division proposes adjusting the current maximum videocassette overdue fine to $10.00 per item to encourage the public to return overdue videocassettes.

It is anticipated that a lower maximum fine will increase videocassette circulation and daily fine revenue. This increase will offset the revenue lost by reducing the maximum fine from $18 to $10.

Financial Impact:

The Departmental Controller has reviewed the report and has indicated that there is no financial impact.

In preparing this report there was consultation and concurrence by:

N/A

This Report Submitted By:

Department: Community Services
Division: Library Services
Prepared by: Rick Walker, Arthur Cohen
File No: