

# El Paso Public Library

Goal 4 - Enhance El Paso's Quality of Life through Recreational, Cultural and Educational Environments

## Food for Fines Period

January 5 – January 18, 2020

**Norma Martinez**

Interim Director of Libraries

[www.elpasolibrary.org](http://www.elpasolibrary.org)

[Facebook.com/elpasolibrary](https://www.facebook.com/elpasolibrary)

[Twitter.com/elpasopubliclibrary](https://twitter.com/elpasopubliclibrary)

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- The El Paso Public Library is proposing a Food for Fines period January 5 – 18, 2020.
- During this period, Library patrons will be able to pay down their fines by contributing canned or non-perishable food items to the MLK Canned Food Drive.
- The Library will reduce their accrued fines \$1 for every can of food donated at Library locations.
- City Council has approved periodic Food for Fines Periods since 2012 to run in conjunction with the food drive.
- The MLK Canned Food Drive is organized by various community partners, which include City of El Paso Library and Environmental Services Departments, since 2000.



## PRECEDENT

Ordinance Number 18059, AN ORDINANCE RESCINDING ORDINANCE NOS. 10739, 12141, 15006, AND 15167 AND AUTHORIZING THE EL PASO PUBLIC LIBRARY TO ESTABLISH FEES BY THE BUDGET RESOLUTION AND ALSO AUTHORIZES CITY COUNCIL TO DECLARE LIMITED PERIODS OF "AMNESTY" BY APPROPRIATELY ADOPTED RESOLUTION.



## PROGRAM GOALS

- Recover Library Materials
- Reduce the Amount of Fines and Fees Owed
- Give Patrons Access
- Help Feed the Hungry in El Paso

## CURRENT FINES AND FEES

- The Library currently has approximately 236,000 active cardholders
- There are approximately 55,000 patrons blocked from using the library (includes children)
- Since 2012, Libraries have collected and estimated 26 tons of food that have gone to help feed the hungry in El Paso.

**Texas library systems that have gone fine free:** Denton, Ft. Worth, Canyon Area Library, San Antonio (Pilot Program), Plano, Frisco, Abilene, Austin (Children Only), Jeff Davis County. (source: Urban Libraries Council)

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Library patrons can return their overdue materials during this period and have their fines and fees waived
- Library materials must be returned in usable condition.
- Patrons without outstanding materials but with fines on the books can get those waived by asking for amnesty at any branch throughout the City.
- Borrowing privileges are restored so long as materials are returned.
- The food collected is then sorted and distributed, free of charge, to organizations that serve the hungry on MLK Day, January 20, 2020.



## Beneficiaries

- Opportunity Center for the Homeless
- The El Paso Homeless Shelter
- The Salvation Army
- La Fe Montana Vista
- Center Against Family Violence
- El Paso Villa Maria
- La Familia of El Paso
- La Posada Home
- Reynolds Home

Questions?