

**NOVEMBER 19, 2013**

**VIA EMAIL**

**TO:** Pam O'Connor, Mayor, City of Santa Monica [pam.oconnor@smgov.net](mailto:pam.oconnor@smgov.net)

**Cc:** Terry O'Day, Mayor Pro Tempore, City of Santa Monica [terry.oday@smgov.net](mailto:terry.oday@smgov.net)  
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**Re: Santa Monica Nonresident Fee for Library Card**



**Mar Vista  
Community Council**

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John Kuchta

Dear Mayor O'Connor,

It has come to our attention that since July 2013, effective as individual library cards expire, nonresidents of Santa Monica must pay a \$25 yearly charge for a Santa Monica library card.

We respectfully request that Santa Monica, in line with Los Angeles and most every municipality within the County of Los Angeles, return to its pre-July 2013 policy of allowing nonresidents to obtain Santa Monica library cards without charge.

We appreciate that Santa Monica, like every other local government (including ours), is looking for ways to raise needed revenue. We do not think, however, that moneys should be raised by charging nonresidents for library cards. It makes our libraries less accessible, especially to the poorest segment of our population who may not be able to afford the new charge.

Our nation's longstanding tradition of free libraries is based on the principle that public libraries are fundamental to an informed public necessary for democracy. We believe the cherished principles underlying free public libraries should override the financial reasons behind the charge.

In sum, we respectfully request that the City of Santa Monica rescind this new charge and return to its former policy of not charging nonresidents for library cards.

If you have any questions, or if we can be of assistance in this regard, do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter,

Sharon Commins, Chair  
Mar Vista Community Council  
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