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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Nothing Can Keep Us Apart – Not Even Late Fees**

**During September patrons can return overdue items with no fines at the Russell Library**

**Middletown, CT (August 21, 2017)** Russell Library announced today that it will forgive fines to welcome patrons and materials back to the Library. Throughout the month of September, patrons can bring in their overdue materials, whether they are five days or five years late, and the Library will waive fines and collection fees



“We hope to reconnect residents of all ages with one of Middletown’s greatest resources,” said Russell Library Director and CEO Matt Poland. “Russell Library is one of the best public libraries in Connecticut because of innovative initiatives like fine-free youth library cards, the fine forgiveness program and

our wide assortment of materials and available technology. By welcoming back generations of patrons and restocking the shelves, we are building a stronger Middletown with new opportunities for learning for all citizens.”

The Library expects to “welcome home” hundreds of outstanding items as well as welcoming back hundreds of patrons whose access to library materials has been blocked by overdue fines. From September 1 to September 30, late fines will be waived on all books, CDs, DVDs, and other materials, no matter how long overdue. If an item has been lost, the patron will only be responsible for the replacement cost, and all fines will be forgiven.

“This program allows the Library to recover assets but it is also meant to give people with overdue materials a chance to start over with a clean record, no matter how long the items have been checked out or the reasons for not returning them,” said Library Director and CEO Poland. “It aligns with our commitment to lowering the barriers to library use and providing basic access for all citizens, especially those most in need of our services.”

In June, Russell Library implemented a fine-free youth library card in an effort to eliminate impediments face by children during the years when they are learning to read and then reading to learn.