

ORDINANCE NO. 4294

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2909 BY PROVIDING THE CITY COUNCIL THE AUTHORITY TO ALLOW THE MESQUITE PUBLIC LIBRARY TO ACCEPT RETURN OF OVERDUE ITEMS WITHOUT PAYMENT OF FINES AND OTHER CHARGES DURING A LIMITED PERIOD OF AMNESTY; PROVIDING A REPEALER CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 2909, approved by the City Council of the City of Mesquite, Texas, on September 20, 1993, established a schedule of fines and other charges for the Mesquite Public Library (the "Library"); and

WHEREAS, the accumulation of overdue fines and other charges on overdue items may have deterred patrons of the Library from continuing to utilize the Library's services and may also have deprived others the use of such items; and

WHEREAS; the City Council finds that the declaration of a limited period of "amnesty" will foster the return of numerous overdue items to the Library, which would otherwise be unrecoverable and for which payment would be unlikely; and

WHEREAS; it is in the best interest of the City and its citizens to amend Ordinance No. 2909 to provide for such amnesty.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That the schedule of fees and other charges for overdue, lost or damaged items for the Mesquite Public Library currently contained in Ordinance No. 2909 shall be amended by the addition of the following paragraph at the end of such schedule, in all other respects said Ordinance to remain in full force and effect:

The City Council shall be authorized to declare limited periods of "amnesty" to allow borrowers of items from the Mesquite Public Library to return overdue items or items previously considered lost without payment of the above-described fines or other charges and to allow the Mesquite Public Library to accept return of such items without assessment of such fines or charges. Any such declaration of amnesty shall be by resolution, duly adopted by the City Council, specifying the period of time during which such amnesty shall be effective and finding that such amnesty will promote goodwill among patrons of the Mesquite Public Library and is for a legitimate public purpose.

SECTION 2. That all provisions of the ordinances of the City of Mesquite, codified or uncoded, in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed, and all other provisions of the ordinances of the City of Mesquite, codified or uncoded, not in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance, shall remain in full force and effect.


SECTION 3. That should any word, sentence, clause, paragraph or provision of this ordinance be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions of this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

DULY PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Mesquite, Texas, on the 21st day of January, 2014.




John Monaco
Mayor

ATTEST:



Sonja Land
City Secretary

APPROVED:



B. J. Smith
City Attorney