

ORDINANCE NO. 4295

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 10 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS, AS AMENDED, BY ADDING A SECOND PARAGRAPH TO SECTION 10-18 THEREBY PROVIDING FOR PERIODS OF AMNESTY BY THE CITY COUNCIL TO ALLOW THE MESQUITE PUBLIC LIBRARY TO ACCEPT RETURN OF OVERDUE ITEMS WITHOUT PENALTY DURING A LIMITED PERIOD OF AMNESTY; PROVIDING A REPEALER CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.

WHEREAS, under Section 10-18 of the Code of the City of Mesquite, Texas, as amended, it is a misdemeanor for the failure to return any borrowed book, pamphlet, periodical, paper or other property from the Mesquite Public Library within 30 days of the date of mailing a notice by registered mail with return receipt requested to the borrower's address; 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 Section 10-18 to provide for such amnesty.

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

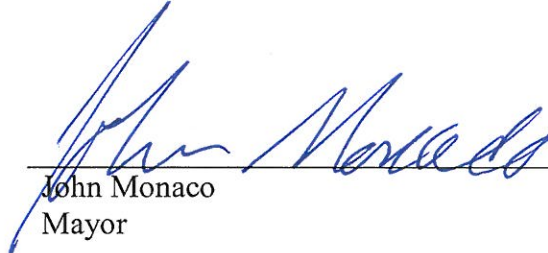
SECTION 1. That Chapter 10 of the Code of the City of Mesquite, Texas, as amended, is hereby amended by amending Section 10-18 by adding a second paragraph to read as follows, in all other respects said Section to remain in full force and effect:

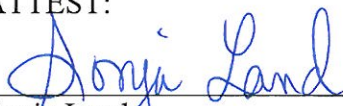
The City Council shall be authorized to declare limited periods of "amnesty" to allow borrowers of items from the Mesquite Public Library to return overdue items or items previously considered lost without criminal penalty and to allow the Mesquite Public Library to accept return of such items without payment or assessment of 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.

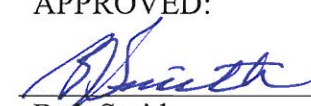
SECTION 2. That all provisions of the ordinances of the City of Mesquite, codified or uncoded, in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed, and all other provisions of the ordinances of the City of Mesquite, codified or uncoded, not in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance,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

  
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John Monaco  
Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sonja Land  
City Secretary

APPROVED:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
B. J. Smith  
City Attorney