

**CITY OF LA VISTA
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORT
OCTOBER 6, 2020 AGENDA**

Subject:	Type:	Submitted By:
COUNCIL POLICY STATEMENT - ISSUANCE OF MILITARY LIBRARY CARDS	◆ RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	ROSE BARCAL LIBRARY DIRECTOR

SYNOPSIS

The Library Advisory Board has made a recommendation to offer library memberships to military personnel who live outside of our jurisdiction at no charge. A resolution has been prepared approving a Council Policy Statement to that effect.

FISCAL IMPACT

Unknown/minimal. The Library currently has 134 non-resident paid memberships. Because we do not collect data regarding military status on our membership applications, it is unknown how a free military membership might impact our revenues.

RECOMMENDATION

- **Library Board** – Approval for all active duty, retired or honorably discharged military personnel.
- **Staff Recommendation** - If Council desires to offer military memberships, approval for active duty military members and their dependents only. (See background information below)

BACKGROUND

An active duty military member who resides in the City of Papillion contacted our Library asking for consideration of military library memberships. The person made reference to the fact that Omaha and Bellevue offer such memberships.

This was initially placed on the October 6, 2020 Council agenda, and the City Council asked for additional information. The following is the information compiled by staff regarding what other area Libraries/Cities are doing.

City	Military Membership	Includes	# Permits	Other
Bellevue	Yes	Active Duty/Dependents/Retired	3,200	Base Housing Not in City Individual Cards Issued to Family
Gretna	Yes	Active Duty/Veterans/Retirees	158	Mostly ETJ & Bellevue
La Vista	No			
Omaha	Yes	Active Duty	121	
Papillion	No			
Ralston	Yes	Active Duty	46	Mostly Papillion & Bellevue
Springfield	Yes	If Children in School District	2	

No other benefits for military personnel were reported by any of the cities with the exception of Papillion. While they do not offer free library memberships to military, they do offer a 10% discount at their community center for active duty and retired military.

The La Vista Public Library is one of two public libraries in the county that do not offer a military membership of any kind. The Library Board indicated in their discussion they felt offering a military membership would align with the City's multiple initiatives to support the military community.

At the January 2020 Library Board meeting, the board voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council the offering of a military membership to active, retired, and honorably discharged members of military.

As all current residents of the City (military or not), receive free library membership, this would only apply to those who live outside of La Vista city limits. Over the years the Library has had multiple requests, particularly from people who live in the City's ETJ (Cimarron Woods, Portal Ridge, etc.) for free memberships as they feel as though they are part of the City. These requests have been denied. As such, staff recommends limiting the proposal to active duty military and their dependents.

A draft Council Policy Statement is attached for discussion. The highlighted areas are the proposed change. The remaining language is already included in an existing internal Library Policy. Based on the two differing recommendations (one from the Library Advisory Board and one from staff) Council would need to make a choice as to which language to add, assuming they want to create this new Council Policy Statement.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA VISTA, NEBRASKA, APPROVING A COUNCIL POLICY STATEMENT.

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that it is necessary and desirable to create Council Policy Statements as a means of establishing guidelines and direction to the members of the City Council and to the city administration in regard to various issues which regularly occur; and

WHEREAS, the issuance of library cards to military personnel residing outside the city limits is being recommended; and

WHEREAS, a Council Policy Statement entitled "Public Library User Privileges" has been created and reviewed by the Library Advisory Board;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of La Vista, Nebraska, do hereby approve a Council Policy Statement entitled "Public Library User Privileges" and do further hereby direct the distribution of said Council Policy Statement to the appropriate City Departments.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 3RD DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2020.

CITY OF LA VISTA

Douglas Kindig, Mayor

ATTEST:

Pamela A. Buethe, CMC
City Clerk

Issued: DATE
Resolution No. 20-XXX

Administration

The administration and daily operation of the La Vista Public Library shall be the responsibility of the Library Director and is guided by established policies and procedures.

Fees shall be reviewed annually by the Library Advisory Board and approved by the Mayor and City Council.

Public Library User Privileges

Within the library, the use of all materials is open to the public. Service will not be denied or abridged because of religious, racial, social, economic, political, or age status. The use of the library or its services may be denied for due cause including, but not limited to, failure to return books or pay fees, destruction of library property, or failure to abide by stated library policies.

Any person who resides within the city limits or through business ownership pays property taxes to the City of La Vista, may apply for a library card at no charge. New patrons requesting a library card will be required to show identification with proof of address at the time of request. Library cards can be issued to all who are 15 years of age and older and to minor children ages 5-14 with parental consent.

Employees of the City of La Vista, members of the La Vista/Papillion Fire Department, teachers in a La Vista Public School, or current students, faculty members or staff members of the Metropolitan Community College, may also apply for a library card at no charge.

Military personnel (active, retired, or honorably discharged) residing outside the city limits may apply for a card at no charge. Military ID must be presented.

Military personnel (active duty and dependents only) residing outside the city limits may apply for a card at no charge. Military ID must be presented.

Non-residents (those living outside the city limits) may obtain a card by paying a fee as set forth in the City's Master Fee Ordinance.