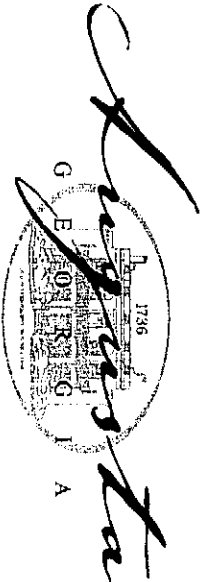


OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DEKE COPENHAVER
MAYOR



November 24, 2009

PINES Executive Committee
c/o Elizabeth McKinney
Georgia Public Library Service
1800 Century Place, Suite 150
Atlanta, GA 30345-4304

Dear Committee Members:

On your agenda for the December meeting is an item regarding the renewal of library cards for persons who owe fines and fees. Mr. Gary Swint, Director of the East Central Georgia Regional Library, has informed me that our libraries cannot refuse service to patrons who owe less than \$10, even though they have owed these fines for more than a year.

We want the best possible library service for our citizens. However, we are also custodians of tax payers' money. According to a PINES report which was run this week, almost one third of our patron accounts in Augusta show between 1 cent and \$9.99 owing; many of these debts being owed well in excess of a year. The total for these accounts is over \$68,000.

This has been a year of reductions of state funding for libraries as well as other services. \$68,000 would purchase several thousand books. Mr. Swint constantly asks for additional funding for the library, yet he says that according to present PINES rules, he is not allowed to compel delinquent patrons to pay the money they owe. To be in compliance with Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) regulations, an attempt must be made to collect these fines. When a card is renewed would be the logical time to do so.

I ask that the existing regulation be changed to specify that outstanding debts to libraries must be settled before a PINES card may be renewed.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deke Copenhaver', is written over a horizontal line.

Deke Copenhaver
Mayor

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