



AUGUSTA-RICHMOND COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

GARY SWINT
DIRECTOR

902 GREENE STREET
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA 30901-2294
(706) 821-2600 • FAX (706) 724-6762

18 November 2009

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

Dear Executive Committee:

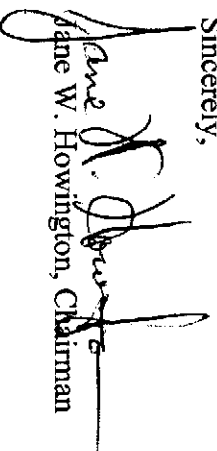
The Trustees for the Augusta-Richmond County Public Library are very concerned with the regulations regarding the renewal of library cards for patrons with long term debts. Gary Swint, the director of our regional system, has informed us that we cannot require patrons to pay outstanding debts, owed to the library, before we renew their card, or allow them to continue to use library services.

We are dedicated to providing the best possible service to our patrons. At the same time, we have a fiscal responsibility as guardians of tax generated revenue. From audits which have been conducted and reported to us, it is our understanding that according to Government Accounting Standards Bureau regulations we are required to show a "reasonable attempt" to recover debt owed to us. The settlement of debt to renew a card would constitute such an attempt. Why are we being told that we cannot follow these regulations?

In Richmond County the total owed on accounts of \$.01 to \$9.99 is almost \$70,000. We are struggling to equip a new headquarters library with furnishings and equipment. We are in a difficult position when we go to the city to ask for money while being told by a committee under the guidance of the state library that we cannot collect money owed to us by delinquent patrons.

Please revise the wording or interpretation of the PINES regulation for issuance and renewal of cards to allow the collections of these fines, and for us to continue to report to our funding agencies that we are acting in a fiscally responsible manner.

Sincerely,



Jane W. Howington, Chairman