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Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Jane Light, Library Director

SUBJECT: Library Internet Access and
Computer Use Policy Update

DATE: February 22, 2010

Approved

Date

2-23-10

INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

At a meeting on 4/21/09 City Council directed the Library Department (Council Referral #1232) to revise its Library Internet Access and Computer Use Policy to include the following language:

San José library patrons are expected to use library computers in a responsible and courteous manner. Computers are located in public areas and shared by people of all ages and backgrounds. Internet users must be considerate and respectful of other library patrons and especially mindful of children in the library. Use of public computers for internet access to material that depicts sexual conduct of minors under the age of 18 or that displays material harmful to minors may violate different Penal Code provisions, such as Penal Code Sections 311.11 and 313.1, which may constitute a misdemeanor or felony offense under California law. A potentially unlawful use of public computers may be referred to law enforcement personnel for appropriate action.

In addition, the Library Department was directed (Council Referral #1230) to create a computer log-in page that "reminds library users of City access rules, warns of the illegality of exposing harmful material to minors, advises users to use computers responsibly and requires users to affirmatively acknowledge agreement with these conditions before proceeding".

The Library Department was also directed to ensure the existing policy is fully enforced to the extent of staff resources.

ACTION

In September 2009 the Library Internet Access and Computer Use Policy was changed after being reviewed and approved by the SJSU Library Dean and SJSU Library Board and posted on the Library's internal and external websites as directed.

At the same time a revised log-in page was created, reviewed and implemented. It appears at the initiation of a computer session, includes the above language and requires agreement in order to proceed with a computer session.

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To address enforcement of the policy, the Library Department developed training to better equip staff with techniques and language to address any issues with respect to Internet use. In December 2009 the training was presented to all supervisory and management staff at branches and in January 2010 at Martin Luther King Jr. Library; at subsequent staff meetings the training was presented to public service staff. Security staff at King Library have also reviewed and been trained regarding the policy and implementation. The training is ongoing and continues to be reviewed and updated as part of the Library's regular staff training program.



Jane Light
Director, Library Department

For questions please contact Jane Light, Library Director, at 408-808-2150.