Public Code of Behavior Policy

The Library welcomes all residents and visitors and is dedicated to free and equal access to information, knowledge, and independent learning for our diverse community.

The Library seeks to provide its patrons, staff, and volunteers with a safe and pleasant library experience in an atmosphere conducive to connecting, studying, reading, creating, and learning. The Library recognizes its unique position and responsibility to educate, inform, and enlighten the community through free resources, programs, and services that enable everyone to participate fully in our democratic society as members of a knowledgeable and educated

Citizenry.

With public service as the highest priority, the Board of Trustees has established the rules and regulations governing use of the Library, such that all persons may enjoy its benefits. All Library patrons can expect to:

• Receive courteous service,

• Be treated fairly and equitably by all Library staff,

• Contact staff for reference, readers’ advisory, and information services,

• Have questions, comments and concerns addressed in a timely manner,

• Suggest new materials, programs and services,

• Have staff make the library operate in the best interest of the taxpayers, and

• Have a safe, clean, and comfortable building.

Individuals visiting or using the Library’s facilities or services must comply with the following Public Code of Behavior. The Library will uphold all federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations and ordinances in regard to public behavior.

1. Patrons shall be engaged in activities associated with the use of a public Library while in the building.

2. Patrons may not interfere with the use of the Library by other patrons or interfere with staff performance of their duties. Interference includes, but is not limited to:

• Use of loud, abusive, threatening or insulting language or behavior including language or behavior that offends, threatens, or insults groups or individuals, based on race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or other traits,

• Inebriation,

• Activities or behavior that may result in injury or harm to any library patron or staff member, including challenging another person to fight or engage in any fight and

• Photographing Library users, volunteers or staff without prior permission of the

Executive Director.

3. Patrons may not sexually harass other patrons or staff. Harassment includes:

• making inappropriate personal comments or sexual advances;

• using obscene or lewd language or gestures;

• staring at, or following, a patron, volunteer, or staff in a manner that reasonably can be expected to disturb him or her,

• and exposing others to sexual Internet content (more information on Internet usage can be found in the Internet Policy).

4. Solicitation is not allowed on Library property. This includes selling, begging, or circulating petitions among patrons, volunteers or staff members, except as otherwise allowed by law

5. Patrons may consume food in the Café area on the first floor. Covered beverages may be enjoyed throughout the Library, unless otherwise indicated.

6. Bringing pets or animals, other than service animals necessary for disabilities, into the

Library is not allowed, except as authorized by the Executive Director for special programming purposes.

7. Shirts and shoes are required for health reasons and must be worn at all times.

8. Patrons whose bodily hygiene is so offensive as to constitute a nuisance to other persons shall be required to leave the building and may return when the problem has been corrected. Offensive body odor, poor personal hygiene, overpowering perfume or cologne may require a patron to leave the building until such a time as the condition can become resolved.

9. Use of skateboards, roller blades or roller-skates is not allowed in the Library or on

Library property.

10. The use of incendiary devices, such as candles, matches or lighters are prohibited on

Library grounds. Smoking is not permitted within the Library or within 25 feet of any public entrance.

11. Any other behavior which could reasonably be expected to disturb other users or interfere with the Library staff performance of their duties is prohibited.

12. While the Library encourages use by everyone, it cannot assume responsibility for the care and supervision of any patrons who are disabled or impaired to the extent that they cannot independently follow Library rules or be safe without a caregiver. Patrons who