

**NORTH MERRICK PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1691 MEADOWBROOK ROAD
NORTH MERRICK, NEW YORK 11566 (516) 378-7474**

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STATEMENT OF POLICY FOR USE OF MEETING ROOMS

- I. **POLICY** It is the policy of the Board of Trustees of the North Merrick Public Library that any group willing to abide by the Library's rules may book the Library's meeting rooms for a meeting.
- II. **OBJECTIVES** The objective of this policy is to make the Library's meeting facilities available to the entire community free of charge and to non-community groups for a fee which compensates the Library for estimated costs.
- III. **PROCEDURE**
 - A. Certain areas of the Library may be made available for use by groups for educational, cultural, philanthropic, and civic purposes, or for non-partisan political discussion programs. Meeting rooms shall not be available for commercial purposes. Reservations for the meeting rooms will be accepted as long as they do not interfere with Library sponsored programs. Reservations will be accepted up to three months in advance of a meeting, when Library programs are in place. Recurring use of the same timeslot cannot be expected. Groups may not reserve a meeting room for more than one use per month.
 - B. The priority for use of meeting rooms will be:
 - a. Library operations or Library sponsored programs;
 - b. Community groups;
 - c. Non-community groups.
 - C. A group whose membership is composed of a minimum of fifty (50%) of persons residing within the North Merrick community shall qualify as a community group. All others shall be considered as non-community groups.
 - D. Permission for the use of these areas will be granted at the discretion of the Board of Trustees upon the approval of a written application. The Director shall administer the approval and scheduling of such use.
 - E. Granting of permission for use of North Merrick Public Library facilities does not in any way constitute an endorsement, by its Board or its employees, of the purposes or opinions expressed by the approved applicant.
 - F. Neither the Board nor the Library nor its employees assumes responsibility for personal or organization property brought onto or left on the premises.
 - G. An application form, "Application for Use of Meeting Room" (see Appendix B) is to be completed in duplicate and submitted to the designated staff or Library Director for approval of the Board of Trustees. One copy is retained by the Library and the second copy is retained by the applicant.
 - H. The applicant and its authorized representative, signing the application, will be held financially responsible for any damage to Library property or equipment.
 - I. The representative must arrive before the meeting to check in with the Custodian.
 - J. No admission fees or collections are to be charged without the permission of the Library. All programs must be open to the general public without restrictions, except those conducted by educational or public bodies requiring advanced enrollment fees.
 - K. The legal capacity of the North Merrick Room is 171 persons; the seating capacity is 90; the seating capacity with tables is 64. The legal capacity of the Len Kirsch Meeting Room is 71 persons; the seating capacity is 41; the seating capacity with tables is 28. Capacity may not be exceeded.
 - L. Refreshments may be served only with written permission of the Director or designated staff.
 - M. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the Library building.
 - N. A responsible adult must be present and in charge at all times while minors are in attendance at meetings.
 - O. Community groups may use these facilities at no charge.
 - P. Non-community groups shall pay a fee of \$60.00 per hour or part thereof to compensate the Library for administrative costs, custodial time for set up and breakdown of chairs and tables, or other required services and the cost of heat, light, air conditioning, and general cleaning.
 - Q. In order to qualify for a waiver of the fees to use the meeting room, an attendance sheet listing the names and addresses of meeting attendees is required as evidence that at least 50% of the meeting attendees were North Merrick residents.
 - R. Both community groups and non-community groups must end their meetings by 9:00 P.M. and the building must be vacated by 9:00 P.M. Mondays through Thursdays. Groups failing to leave the building by 9:00 P.M. will be charged \$100.00 per additional half hour. Fridays and weekends groups must vacate by closing time, or be charged \$100.00 per additional half hour.
 - S. Continued use of facilities by any group or organization is contingent upon observance of these procedures. Permission for future use may be withdrawn or denied for infraction of these procedures.
 - T. The Library reserves the right to cancel any meeting room reservation that has been scheduled at the Library's discretion.
 - U. The library must be provided with 24 hours' notice when a meeting is canceled. Groups that do not provide sufficient notice and groups which repeatedly cancel their reservation may be denied permission for future meeting room use at the discretion of the Library.
 - V. Subject to availability, the Library will permit use of its meeting rooms, free of charge, by groups from neighboring libraries, when the meeting rooms at their home libraries are not available due to construction or other closure.

As a representative of my organization, I read and agree to the regulations governing the use of the Library meeting room.

Name of responsible officer: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

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1. Name of organization: _____

2. Nature and purpose of organization: _____

3. Date of Meeting: _____ Hours of meeting: _____

If for regularly scheduled meetings, indicate the frequency of use of the room:

4. Description of room set-up (number of tables, chairs, etc.):

Are kitchen facilities needed? _____

5. Description of activity and program to be presented: _____

6. Number of members in the organization: _____

Number of members that are North Merrick residents: _____

7. The undersigned representative of the organization named above, has read and agrees to the regulations governing the use of the Library meeting room. This application must be renewed annually by September 15th.

Name of responsible officer: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Cell Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

STAFF / DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION	BOARD ACTION (For First Time Applicants)
<p>I recommend ___ approval ___ disapproval</p> <p>This group qualified as a responsible:</p> <p>___ Community group – no fee to 9:00 P.M.</p> <p>___ Non-community group – fee of \$25/hr. to 9:00 P.M.</p>	<p>Application was ___ approved ___ disapproved</p> <p>Date of Board meeting: _____</p> <p>Attest: _____</p> <p>Secretary to the Board</p>