



## BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

### Library Commission

Recommendation Number: 20130528004

### Austin Public Library 2013-2014 Proposed Budget

WHEREAS the City of Austin's vision and mission is for Austin to be the most livable and best managed city in the country through diversity and inclusion, public service and engagement and innovation and sustainability;

WHEREAS the Austin Library supports the City's vision and mission and is committed to providing easy access to materials and information for all ages, through responsive professionals, engaging programs, and state-of-the-art technology in a safe and friendly environment;

WHEREAS Austin is ranked in Forbes as the fastest growing City in the country with a population growth rate of 2.8 annually;

WHEREAS the Hispanic population in Austin has steadily increased to 35 percent with 56.1% of the population under the age of 5, 45.5% of which are living in poverty;

WHEREAS the Hispanic Quality of Life draft report, released May 10, 2013, indicated the need for more Library services such as the Connected Youth program "that teach basic skills that can help secure gainful employment" and to use public libraries "to convene ongoing dialogues and conversations regarding city public policies..."

WHEREAS the Austin Library has had fewer library staff per service hour than peer libraries since 2003;

WHEREAS technological limitations of Austin's libraries restrict efficiencies in library operations and customer service;

WHEREAS the Library's program attendance per Capita has decreased by 5%, echoing the decrease in library staff and reduced library hours and reducing the offerings of story times and youth and adult computer classes;

WHEREAS the Library's materials expenditures per Capita of \$3.40 is nearly 50% below the average of its peer libraries including Baltimore, Seattle, Denver and Memphis;

WHEREAS the Library's circulation per Capita increased 27% from Fiscal Year 2008 to FY 2012;

WHEREAS the Library experienced an 80% increase in digital material circulation in 2012;

WHEREAS Library incidents such as drug use and theft continue to be an issue at Library branches without security guard presence at an rate of 1200-1800 incidents per year;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Library Commission supports the Austin Public Library's proposed FY 14 Budget and CIP plan which includes the hiring of 13 full time Library staff and 2 Security staff installation as well as the RFID technology at the 5 highest used library branches.

Date of Approval: May 28, 2013

Record of the vote: Unanimous on a 5-0 vote, Commission Members Kahn and Price Todd were not in attendance

Attest: Toni Gnawso