



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Brenda Branch, Director of Libraries *BB*

DATE: December 11, 2014

SUBJECT: Council Resolution No. 20140417-058 (CIUR 1285)

Council Resolution No. 20140417-058 directed the City Manager to conduct a parking occupancy study for the Terrazas Branch Library (1105 E. Cesar Chavez Street) and to make any excess capacity available to the public or nearby businesses by means of either parking meters or through individual leases with those businesses. The City Manager was further directed to create and advertise a Request for Information (RFI) to determine the potential for redeveloping the Terrazas Branch Library parking lot site.

The Austin Public Library subsequently carried out a parking occupancy study at the Terrazas Branch Library over an eight week period and established that less than half of the fifty space parking lot was utilized by Library customers on an average, hourly basis. Nearby businesses were approached with the idea of leasing parking spaces from the Austin Public Library, but none were immediately interested in pursuing such a course of action. Discussions were held with the Austin Transportation Department regarding the feasibility of installing parking meters for half of the parking spaces at the Terrazas Branch Library, but consensus held that it would be appropriate to first determine the will of the E. Cesar Chavez Neighborhood in these matters by means of the RFI issued.

The Austin Public Library has researched repositioning of underutilized properties in urban redevelopment efforts and created a RFI which is respectful of East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Plan priorities, aligned with the goals of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan, and attentive to the principles of the Austin Public Library Facilities Master Plan. With the assistance of the Office of Real Estate Services, the Austin Public Library will issue the RFI on December 15, 2014 and receive the responses to the RFI by February 6, 2015. Following input from the community, including but not limited to the East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood, the affordable housing community and the development community, the Austin Public Library will develop a recommendation on the path forward to bring to Council by May, 2015.

While this long term process to maximize the value of an urban asset is in progress, the Austin Public Library will revisit the short term possibility of leasing excess parking capacity at the

Terrazas Branch Library with neighboring businesses in an effort to share infrastructure and bring energy to the community.

If you should have any questions in these regards, please do not hesitate to contact me at 512-974-7444.

XC: Marc Ott, City Manager
Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager
Rob Spillar, Director, Austin Transportation
Betsy Spencer, Director, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development
