



Commission on Immigrant Affairs

Recommendation Number: 20190429-5All: Fund Municipal ID feasibility study

Brief Title

Fund the feasibility study and task force created by Resolution No. 20141211-225

Describe the Issue

City Council passed Resolution 20140807-102 directing the City Manager to convene a community stakeholder group to assist in reviewing community needs and current opportunities regarding municipally issued identification. The City Manager was directed to report back with a proposal for a City of Austin Identification Card in calendar year 2015.

In December 2014, the City Manager issued a memorandum in response to this resolution making the recommendation to:

- require the appointment of a Program Administrator and creation of a Task Force with representation from the City Attorney, Public Safety, affected departments and relevant commissions to conduct a detailed feasibility study;
- address concerns identified during the stakeholder process
- design the rules and processes of the program
- design the exact features and uses of the cards; and
- develop a date-specific implementation plan.

City Council then unanimously passed Resolution No. 20141211-225 on December 11, 2014 in response directing the City Manager to appoint a program administrator and enact the recommendations in the City Manager's memo including estimating start-up and annual maintenance cost, and to return to council with a date specific implementation plan within 180 days.

Those 180 days have become (as of Monday, April 29, 2019), 1600 days and we still do not have a program administrator or implementation plan.

In that time, a number of circumstances have changed and we believe that the need for a safe, secure card that can be trusted by both police (as proof of identification) and beneficial to all Austin residents is even more important now.

Data

City Council has already passed two recommendations directing the City Manager's office to create a plan for implementation of a city identification program.

Additionally, the Commission on Immigrant Affairs has also passed a resolution on this issue (See Resolution No. 20170508-005A: Regarding "Municipal ID's").

In August of 2014, it was estimated that 19% of Austinites did not have any identification or any way to procure one. See <https://www.kut.org/post/austin-could-create-municipal-id-program>. We continue to hear from community members (including at our recent forum) that the need for an ID that is available to all Austinites is a priority, so long as the implementation protects the privacy of the cardholders and is accepted by police officers as proof of identity.

Recommendation to Address Issue (increase efficiency, effectiveness, and equity):

We recommend that Resolution 20171211-225 be fully funded and that the task force be directed to look specifically at how other cities (especially Texas cities such as San Antonio) have implemented city or municipal identification programs. We also recommend that the task force examine the feasibility of the identification program being created and administered by a non-governmental organization working in cooperation with the City of Austin.

Strategic Outcome 1:**Government that Works for All**

- Satisfaction with City Services
- Public Engagement and Participation
- Equity of City Programs and Resource Allocation

Strategic Outcome 2:**Safety**

- Fair Administration of Justice
- Public compliance with laws and regulations
- Emergency preparedness and recovery

Strategic Outcome 3:**Health**

- Accessibility to quality health care services
- Accessibility to quality parks, trails, and rec opportunities

Strategic Outcome 4:**Culture and Lifelong Learning**

- Appreciation, respect and welcoming of all people and cultures

Strategic Outcome 5:

Mobility

**Accessibility to transportation choices
Safety**

Strategic Outcome 6:

Economic Opportunity and Affordability

**Housing availability and affordability
Homelessness**

Date of Approval: 4/29/19

Record of the vote: Unanimous on an 8-0 vote, Glenn Rosales, Samuel Adair, Walid Kobrosly, and Nasario Jaimes not present

Attest: Connie H. Gonzalez

