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**WHEREAS**, Rodolfo “Rudy” Mendez, a native Austinite, early in life developed

**WHEREAS**, Rudy Mendez studied dance theory, technique, and composition in

**WHEREAS,** Rudy Mendez’s passion for community service led him to Chile and

**WHEREAS**, in 1978, Rudy Mendez founded Ballet East Dance Company, which

**WHEREAS**, Rudy Mendez has been driven in his work by a conviction that

**WHEREAS,** Rudy has selflessly dedicated his work to providing free lessons to

20           **WHEREAS,** by successfully securing funding and grants, including from the  
21 Texas Commission of Arts, Rudy Mendez has led award-winning efforts like Dare to  
22 Dance which has been recognized by the President’s Committee on the Arts and  
23 Humanities as a top after-school program in the nation; and

24           **WHEREAS;** as the East Austin community has faced countless challenges, Rudy  
25 Mendez rose up for his community and provided necessary resources and support to the  
26 youth, and has long been admired and respected by many as a leader of East Austin; and

27           **WHEREAS,** the Confederate Monuments Resolution No. 20171005-031  
28 revealed that the original land on which Metz Recreation Center is located was acquired  
29 by a bond purchase in 1933, opened in 1972 and named after Hamilton M. Metz: Captain  
30 Co. E, 33<sup>rd</sup> Texas Cavalry (Confederate Vet), also school board member 1903-1915; and

31           **WHEREAS,** the City of Austin is committed to undoing its racist past and  
32 dedicated to honoring the long time Austin community members who have dedicated  
33 their lives to the betterment of the Austin communities, such as Rodolfo “Rudy” Mendez,  
34 who through his continuous acts of service for the youth in East Austin has been  
35 recognized as a leader; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

36 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL:**

37           In recognition of Rudy’s leadership and steadfast commitment to preserving and  
38 sharing the culture of the East Austin Community through his service and art, City  
39 Council directs the City Manager to initiate proceedings per § 14-1-34 of the City Code

40 for the re-naming of the “Metz Recreation Center” to the “Rodolfo ‘Rudy’ Mendez  
41 Recreation Center”

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44 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2019

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk

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DRAFT