RESOLUTION NO.

2	WHEREAS, Rodolfo "Rudy" Mendez, a native Austinite, early in life developed
3	a passion for dance, performance arts, and community service; and
4	WHEREAS, Rudy Mendez studied dance theory, technique, and composition in
5	New York through a scholarship from the Martha Graham School, studied Flamenco in
6	Spain, toured with various companies, and performed in off-Broadway shows; and
7	WHEREAS, Rudy Mendez's passion for community service led him to Chile and
8	Costa Rica, where as part of the Peace Corps, he worked with the minister of Education
9	in each country and to develop performing arts and outreach programs for youth; and
0	WHEREAS, in 1978, Rudy Mendez founded Ballet East Dance Company, which
1	has for over 40 years, been true to its mission to provide a platform for young
2	choreographers and dancers on a national and international level and to develop vigorous
3	outreach to Black and Hispanic communities in East Austin; and
4	WHEREAS, Rudy Mendez has been driven in his work by a conviction that
5	theater and dance can transform lives and serve as powerful community development
6	tools to equip young people in East Austin with discipline and confidence; and
7	WHEREAS, Rudy has selflessly dedicated his work to providing free lessons to
8	multiple generations of young students and provided paid opportunities to dancers and
9	choreographers; and

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

WHEREAS; as the East Austin community has faced countless challenges, Rudy Mendez rose up for his community and provided necessary resources and support to the youth, and has long been admired and respected by many as a leader of East Austin; and WHEREAS, the Confederate Monuments Resolution No. 20171005-031 revealed that the original land on which Metz Recreation Center is located was acquired by a bond purchase in 1933, opened in 1972 and named after Hamilton M. Metz: Captain Co. E, 33rd Texas Cavalry (Confederate Vet), also school board member 1903-1915; and WHEREAS, the City of Austin is committed to undoing its racist past and dedicated to honoring the long time Austin community members who have dedicated their lives to the betterment of the Austin communities, such as Rodolfo "Rudy" Mendez, who through his continuous acts of service for the youth in East Austin has been recognized as a leader; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL:

In recognition of Rudy's leadership and steadfast commitment to preserving and sharing the culture of the East Austin Community through his service and art, City 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 th	e "Rodolfo	'Rudy'	Mendez
41	Recreation Center"							
42 43								
44	ADOPTED:	, 2	2019 A	TTEST:				
45						Jannette S	S. Gooda	 ill
46						City	Clerk	