



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Mayor's Committee on People with Disabilities

Recommendation Number: 20210312-2D: A Resolution For Austin Police department to re-integrate braille onto identification cards

WHEREAS, in the 2010 Census, it was recorded that there are around 30,000 individuals living in the Austin area (and surrounding cities) that have some type of visual impairment. In addition, individuals who are blind and visually impaired from other cities in Texas that are receiving vocational rehabilitation and public education services are temporarily taking residence at the Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center and the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired;

WHEREAS, formerly, the Austin Police Department utilized identification cards adapted with Braille to assist citizens of Austin who are blind and visually impaired in verifying the legitimacy that the Officer is employed with the police department. It has been brought to the attention that the City of Austin Police Department no longer utilizes identification cards adapted with Braille This presents a barrier to individuals who are blind and visually impaired in properly identifying the officer and preventing the risk of an individual or individuals impersonating as a police officer that could potentially put the citizen at harm;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities recommends that the City of Austin fully fund the modification to all Austin Police Department identification cards to be adapted with Braille to ensure equity in the identification of all APD police officers. This recommendation is in alignment with Strategic Outcomes: Safety (including physical and emotional harm prevention to individuals who are blind and visually impaired perpetrated by individuals posing as police officers) and government that works for all.

Date of Approval: 03/12/21

Record of the vote: Unanimous on a 7-0 vote with Commissioners Gene Brooks and Taurean Burt absent.

Attest: *Lee Nguyen*

(Mayor's Committee for people with Disabilities City Co-Staff Liaison)