COMMISSION ON AGING BUDGET RECOMMENDATION
Recommendation Number: 20230308-7ii
Enhanced Library Card Program (ELCP)

Strategic Direction : Government That Works
Date: March 8, 2023
Subject: FY24 Budget Recommendation
Motioned By: Garcia-Pittman **Seconded By:** Briesemeister

Recommendation
Support for funding for the Enhanced Library Card Program (ELCP).

Description of Recommendation to Council
The Commission on Aging supports the funding of the Enhanced Library Card Program through Austin Public Library. Living without a photo ID creates barriers to accessing community resources. Libraries can help bridge this gap through an Enhanced Library Card Program (ELCP), which provides a free photo ID regardless of age, immigration, ability, or housing status. Austin Public Library is working with community and city stakeholders to design and implement this project. It will join several libraries across Texas that are also piloting an ELCP in their communities.

Background and Rationale:

The City of Austin has begun working on a way to use an enhanced library card as a form of identification, which is a service that would be particularly helpful for those who might not have an official ID, like people experiencing homelessness or undocumented residents.

Enhanced library cards, which are used in other Texas cities like Dallas, San Antonio, New Braunfels and San Marcos, look like regular library cards, but include a headshot and other information like the individual's address and birthdate. While the card would of course function as a way to borrow library materials , it could potentially be accepted as a form of ID for things like banking, housing applications or local social services which can be crucial for the well-being of older adults.

Date of Approval: March 8, 2023

Record of the vote:

For: Chair Temperley, Vice-Chair Bondi, Angel, Bordie, Briesemeister, De Maria Nicola, Garcia-Pittman, Lugo, Van Sickle, Van De Putte, Varteressian.

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bauman, Kareithi, Lopez-Guerrero

Attest:

Amy Temperley, Chair