



**JOINT INCLUSION COMMITTEE (JIC)  
FY23-2024 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION 20230322-21ab  
PUBLIC SAFETY PRIORITY – ENHANCED LIBRARY CARD PROGRAM**

Date: March 22, 2023

Subject: Joint Endorsement of the Commission on Aging’s FY23-24 Budget Recommendation 20230308-7ii (AND) the Hispanic/Latino Quality-of-Life Resource Advisory Commission’s FY23-24 Budget Recommendation 20230328-008ab: Austin Public Library’s Enhanced Library Card Program (JIC Public Safety Priority)

Motioned by: Commissioner Hanna Huang      Seconded By: Commissioner Gregory Smith

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COMMISSION ON AGING RECOMMENDATION 20230308-7ii  
HISPANIC/LATINO QUALITY-OF-LIFE COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION 20230321-011b

**JOINTLY ENDORSED RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL ON FY23-2024 BUDGET**

The Joint Inclusion Committee (JIC) collectively endorses the Commission on Aging (AND) the Hispanic/Latino Quality-of-Life Resource Advisory Commission’s recommendation to Council on fully funding the Enhanced Library Card Program (ELCP) at the Austin Public Library (APL). The committee also respectfully recommends that the Austin Police Department (APD) accept the Enhanced Library Card as a form of valid municipal identification. Finally, the committee recommends additional funding for outreach in multiple languages to reach and inform underrepresented communities about APL’s ELCP service.

**Description of Recommendation to Council:**

The Hispanic/Latino Quality-of-Life Resource Advisory Commission 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.

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ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 – 0

For: African American Resource Advisory Commission: Gregory Smith  
Asian American Quality-of-Life Advisory Commission: Hanna Huang  
Commission for Women: Rebecca Austen  
Commission on Aging: Amy Temperley  
Early Childhood Council: Raul Alvarez  
Hispanic/Latino Quality-of-Life-Resource Advisory Commission: Amanda Afifi  
LGBTQ+ Quality-of-Life Advisory Commission: Charles Curry  
Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities: Jennifer Powell

Against: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Commission on Immigrant Affairs: Juan Vences-Benitez  
Human Rights Commission: Idonna Griffith

Attest: Jeremy Garza, Staff Liaison, Equity Office:

x Jeremy Garza