



**HISPANIC/LATINO QUALITY-OF-LIFE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
FY23-2024 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION 20230328-008  
APL's ENHANCED LIBRARY CARD PROGRAM (ELCP)**

Date: March 28, 2023

Subject: FY23-24 Budget Recommendation – APL Enhanced Library Card Program

Motioned by: Commissioner Ivanna Neri

Seconded by: Commissioner Daniela Silva

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**Recommendation:**

Support fully funding the Enhanced Library Card Program (ELCP) at the Austin Public Library (APL). The commission also respectfully recommends that the Austin Police Department (APD) accept the Enhanced Library Card as a form of valid municipal identification. Finally, the commission 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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**Vote**

Roll Call Vote: 7 – 0.

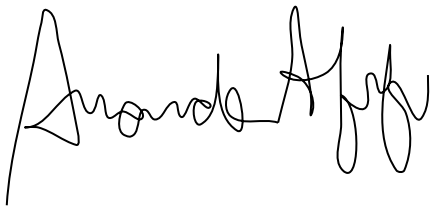
For: Commissioner Silva, Commissioner Afifi, Commissioner Maldonado, Commissioner Neri, Commissioner Perales, Commissioner Castañeda, and Commissioner Peña.

Against: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Commissioner Solis, Commissioner Ramirez, Commissioner Vigil

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Afifi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amanda" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Afifi".

Amanda Afifi, Chair