



**COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION
LIBRARY COMMISSION
Recommendation #20230515-7: Regarding
Austin Library Commission Budget Recommendation**

WHEREAS the City of Austin seeks to build and sustain a culture of inclusiveness and equity across the city;

WHEREAS Austin's African American community holds deep relevance to Austin's history and continued diversity, yet now comprises just 7% of Austin's population;

WHEREAS African Americans in Austin express a desire to stay and plan their lives where they can grow and experience good education, jobs, arts and literature that reflect their identity and culture;

WHEREAS Austin Public Library branches are a vital asset for the African American community for summer reading programs and access to culturally-specific literature and media, especially for African-American youth;

WHEREAS Austin Public Library serves every community in Austin and works to inspire all through the joy of reading and learning;

WHEREAS current efforts in Texas seek to ban the public lending of books of cultural value and significance that reflect the African American experience and cultural heritage;

WHEREAS all Austinites benefit from the increased availability of "banned" books representing differing perspectives and histories;

WHEREAS Austin's African American Resource Advisory Council unanimously voted at its special called meeting in March to recommend an increase in Austin Public Library's base budget to accommodate the purchase of more African-American literature;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Austin Library Commission recommends that the City of Austin increase the Austin Public Library's FY24 materials budget to accommodate a significant investment in African-American Literature into its catalog.

Date of Approval: May 15, 2023

Record of vote: Unanimous on a 7-0 vote

Attest: *Laura B. Ivis*