



COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION
LIBRARY COMMISSION
Recommendation #20230515-6: Regarding
Support for Enhanced Library Cards

WHEREAS, Lack of government issued identification can negatively impact the quality of life for Austin residents, and

WHEREAS, Persons experiencing homelessness, individuals formerly incarcerated, and members of the immigrant community often do not have the paperwork required to obtain a state-issued photo ID, and

WHEREAS, IDs are often required for housing, education, healthcare, banking, and lack of IDs may deter residents from reporting crimes, and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ advocacy organizations have supported municipal-issued identification cards as a means of providing government-issued identification without gender classifications, and

WHEREAS, all Austin residents deserve access to the types of resources that a photo ID provides, and an Enhanced Library Card could be used to meet that need, and

WHEREAS, the Austin Public Library is a central hub within the city of Austin, providing access to information, technology, and creativity for customers, and

WHEREAS, Austin Public Library has issued over 441,000 library cards and adheres to professional standards and ethics governing the confidentiality and protection of customer records, and

WHEREAS, many other cities in the U.S. and Texas, including Houston, San Antonio, San Marcos, and Dallas, have launched successful programs that allow enhanced library cards to be used as a legal form of identification, and

WHEREAS, a pilot program has been established and initial results are positive, and

WHEREAS, the Austin Public Library Commission has studied the issues and recommends the permanent establishment of an Enhanced Library Card Program in the City of Austin,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

The Austin Public Library Commission supports the sustained implementation of an Enhanced Library Card Program in the City of Austin and recommends that the Austin City Council authorize and appropriate funds to support such a program.

Date of Approval: May 15, 2023

Record of vote: Unanimous on a 7-0 vote

Attest: *Laura B/ro*