

**RESOLUTION NO. 20230518-046**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin is committed to fostering a safe community for its LGBTQIA+ citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has a responsibility to ensure its citizens are well-informed of the tools and resources available to report hate crime and incidents; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2021 LGBTQIA+ Austin Quality of Life Study reported that 27 percent of respondents had experienced physical threat or attack in the last five years and 30 percent at some point in their lifetime because they were LGBTQIA+. Of those respondents, 62 percent did not report or seek help, and of those who did, only 7 percent reported asking for help from police or emergency responders; and

**WHEREAS**, significant under-reporting and inaccurate statistics can allow perpetrators of hate-motivated crimes against LGBTQIA+ individuals to continue their behavior with other victims; and

**WHEREAS**, it is vital that victims of such crimes feel comfortable reporting them; and

**WHEREAS**, the City previously approved Resolution No. 20211104-064 condemning antisemitic, racist, and homophobic vandalism, violence, and hateful speech and committing to prosecute and curb hate acts in partnership with nonprofit organizations, the Travis County District Attorney's Office, the Austin Police Department (APD), and other law enforcement partners; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2015, Safe Place was created by the Seattle Police Department to address low reporting of anti-LGBTQ+ crimes and to increase public trust in law enforcement and feelings of safety in the community; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018, the Safe Place program was expanded to offer assistance to anyone who has been a victim of a bias crime; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, APD became the first police agency in Texas to implement the Safe Place designation program and the first in the world to offer the training in multiple languages, partnering with the business, faith, and non-profit communities that play a critical role in assisting the victims of these crimes; and

**WHEREAS**, businesses, faith organizations, and nonprofits can participate by placing a decal in a publicly visible area that alerts victims of hate crimes and bias incidents that this location has partnered with the police and that employees will call for medical or APD assistance, depending on the comfort level of the victim; and

**WHEREAS**, community spaces such as public libraries and recreation centers serve as reliable safe havens for many in the Austin community; and

**WHEREAS**, designating these community spaces as participants in the Safe Place program would increase public awareness of the resources available to report hate crimes and increase reporting of such crimes; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

The City Manager is directed to implement the designation of all in-use City recreation centers and public libraries as participants in the Safe Place program,

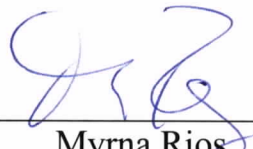
including ensuring that all staff members at each location have received Safe Place training prior to the designation of the facility.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The Safe Place training shall be made available to recreation center and library staff on a quarterly basis.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager is further directed to consult with the Safe Place Coordinator to establish a timeline for Safe Place designation for each location and to return to Council with an update on performance of this Resolution by November 15, 2023.

**ADOPTED:** May 18, 2023 **ATTEST:**   
Myrna Rios  
City Clerk