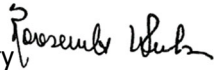





## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council Members

**FROM:** Roosevelt Weeks, Director, Austin Public Library   
Kimberly McNeely, Director, Austin Parks and Recreation Department 

**THROUGH:** Stephanie Hayden-Howard, LMSW, Assistant City Manager

**DATE:** December 1, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Update to Resolution 20230518-046 - Public Libraries and Recreation Centers' Participation in the Safe Place Program

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We wanted to share with you an update to [Resolution 20230518-046](#) regarding the designation of all in-use city recreation centers and public libraries as participants in the Safe Place program.

Safe Place designations were created to address low reporting of anti-LGBTQ+ crimes by helping to facilitate the reporting of criminal activities, increase public trust in law enforcement and feelings of safety in the community and offer assistance to anyone who has been a victim of a bias crime. The designation of public libraries and recreation centers as participants in the Safe Place program will increase public awareness of the resources available to report hate crimes, and is designed to increase the reporting of such crimes.

Prior to being designated as a participant in the program, all Austin Public Library (APL) and Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) employees must complete Safe Place training, which will be made available on a quarterly basis.

The Austin Police Department (APD) will provide the training. A program outline is under final review and APD anticipates rolling out in-person training for APL and PARD supervisors and managers in January 2024. The training will then be launched in the city's TRAIN system and APL and PARD employees will have 60 days to complete it.

Should you have any questions, you may contact Austin Public Library Director, Roosevelt Weeks, at [Roosevelt.Weeks@austintexas.gov](mailto:Roosevelt.Weeks@austintexas.gov) or 512-974-7444 or Austin Parks and Recreation Department Director, Kimberly McNeely, at [Kimberly.McNeeley@austintexas.gov](mailto:Kimberly.McNeeley@austintexas.gov) or 512-974-6722.

**cc:** Jesús Garza, Interim City Manager  
Robin Henderson, Interim Chief of Police, Austin Police Department