



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Library Commission

Recommendation Number: 20240226-6: Renaming of North Village Branch Library

Motioned By: Commissioner Rosenthal

Seconded By: Commissioner Frayjo

WHEREAS, on August 2, 1971, the Austin Public Library inaugurated its North Village Branch, initially situated in a storefront property within the North Village Shopping Center; and

WHEREAS, the 3,000-square-foot facility replaced an Austin Public Library mobile trailer that had previously served as a busy hub for book checkouts from the shopping center parking lot; and

WHEREAS, In 1990, the library relocated a few doors down to a more spacious area within the Center, expanding to 5,000 square feet; and

WHEREAS, in the 1998 City of Austin Bond Election, voters approved funding for the land acquisition, design, and construction of the North Village Branch Replacement Project, aiming to better accommodate the growing populations of the north-central Austin neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the grand opening of the new North Village Branch, patterned after the "library for the future" green model, drawing inspiration from upscale bookstores in its design concept, took place on Saturday, May 30, 2009; and

WHEREAS, John Gillum commenced his employment with the Austin Public Library on August 16, 1979, and then as Facilities Process Manager, in 2011 until his retirement on July 31, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Gillum assisted in the development of new libraries in the 1980s, and oversaw every aspect of the planning, design, construction, and renovation of all Austin Public Library following successful bond packages in 1992, 1998, 2012, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Gillum dedicated 39 years, 11 months, and 16 days to his service with the City of Austin/Austin Public Library; and

WHEREAS, Gillum played a significant role in the development of the North Village Branch Library.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Library Commission wholeheartedly supports and recommends to the Austin City Council that the North Village Branch Library be renamed to the John Gillum Branch Library.

Date of Approval: February 26, 2024

Record of the vote: Unanimous on a 7-0 vote. Commissioner DeRosa were absent from the meeting

Attest: *Laura Polio*
Laura Polio, Library Commission Staff Liaison