




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

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

FROM: Roosevelt Weeks, Director of Libraries 

DATE: March 25, 2024

SUBJECT: Expanded Library Access to Residents of the City's Limited Purpose and Extraterritorial Jurisdictions (Resolution No. 20231214-068)

On December 14, 2023, City Council approved [Resolution No. 20231214-068](#), directing the City Manager to present an ordinance for Council approval to amend [Ordinance No. 20230816-007](#) (the fee and fine ordinance), by eliminating the non-resident library card fee for residents of the Austin Limited Purpose and Extraterritorial Jurisdictions from the fee schedule.

On February 29, 2024, the Austin City Council passed [Ordinance No. 20240229-045](#), which broadened the availability of free Austin Public Library cards to encompass residents residing within the city's Limited Purpose and Extraterritorial Jurisdictions.

Previously, individuals who did not reside within the full-purpose jurisdiction of the City of Austin or attend school in Travis County were required to pay up to \$120 annually for a non-resident library card. Effective March 11, 2024, this ordinance eliminates the fee for those residing in either the city's extraterritorial or limited-purpose jurisdiction. Many residents of these areas have Austin mailing addresses and live in close proximity to Austin Public Library branches.

The removal of this financial barrier represents a significant advancement in enhancing access to library resources and collections for these residents. The Austin Public Library's Communications, Marketing, and Customer Access divisions are launching a multifaceted outreach campaign to promote the expanded access, including updating the website, social media, and informational materials to reflect the eligibility criteria for obtaining a free library card.

If you have any questions, please contact my office at 512-974-7444.

cc: Jesús Garza, Interim City Manager