

June 10, 2013

Mark A. Ott, City Manager  
City of Austin  
301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Austin, TX 78701

RE: FY 2014 Proposed Budget  
FY 2014 CIP Plan

Dear Mr. Ott,

On Tuesday evening, May 28, 2013, the Library Commission received the Austin Public Library's Budget Projection and CIP Plan for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 and unanimously voted for its support.

The Austin Library supports the City's vision and mission by a commitment to providing easy access to materials and information for all citizens, through responsive professionals, engaging programs, and state-of-the-art technology in a safe and friendly environment. Despite this commitment, the Library's creative and resourceful staff has consistently struggled through the years to meet the needs of Austin's ever-growing population. Here are some facts to consider:

- Austin's libraries significantly lag behind its peer libraries such as Seattle, Denver and Memphis in fewer library staff per service hour and in materials expenditures per Capita.
- In addition to reducing library hours, library staff has had to significantly reduce program offerings due to the reduction in staff. This issue will only multiply with the opening of the new Central Library in 2016.
- Austin's Hispanic population in Austin has steadily increased to 35 percent with 56.1% of the population under the age of 5. The Hispanic Quality of Life draft report, released May 10, 2013, indicated the need for more Library services for both educational and community outreach .

It is the Commission's belief that the continued underserving of the Austin population does not properly meet the needs of a growing, vibrant, educated and well-managed City. The 4% increase in the Library budget only serves a minimal need to keep Library doors open and a long-term, more sustainable solution is needed to support the City's mission.

Thank you for your commitment to make Austin the best managed city.

Sincerely,

Peggy Lee Pleasant  
Chair, Library Commission

Austin Public Library Commission

Peggy Pleasant, Chair  
Olga Wise, Vice Chair  
Pat Dabbert  
Sharon Kahn  
Ben Ornelas  
Wendy Price Todd  
Lynne Wiggins

cc Bert Lumbreras  
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Mayor Lee Leffingwell  
Mayor Pro Tem Sheryl Cole  
Council Member Mike Martinez  
Council Member Laura Morrison  
Council Member Chris Riley  
Council Member Bill Spelman  
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Tim Staley  
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