

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, in late 2017, Council discussed the City’s Downtown parking and validation agreements and learned that the contracts vary by garage; and

WHEREAS, City Hall validates parking for up to two hours for customers of the Second Street business district, resulting in the City foregoing approximately \$783,250 from October of 2016 to October of 2017; and

WHEREAS, the new Central Library opened its doors Downtown on October 28, 2017; and

WHEREAS, designed as “the Library of the Future,” the Central Library offers an incredible array of amenities and resources that appeal to residents from all over the City, such as an art gallery, a 350-seat event space, a rooftop butterfly garden, a cooking demonstration area, a Teen Center, a Children’s Library, a Great Reading Room, and the Recycled Reads gift shop; and

WHEREAS, in just a few months, the Central Library has already become a popular community resource that has exceeded attendance expectations, with the library attracting more than 110,000 visitors in December alone; and

WHEREAS, the City currently offers 30 minutes of free parking at the Central Library, but community members requested that the City offer at least one

hour of free parking for library users to increase access, particularly among patrons on fixed incomes and households that live outside of the Downtown area and do not have access to expedient public transit; and

WHEREAS, the revenue generated from the parking garage goes toward the library's building maintenance costs; and

WHEREAS, others, including some city staff, have expressed concerns that a validation option at the Central Library could be misused by Downtown visitors, workers, and other non-library users; and

WHEREAS, the library's parking garage is currently experiencing capacity issues that may be exacerbated by non-library patrons who can park for up to 10 hours for \$9.00, a fairly affordable price for long-term Downtown parking; and

WHEREAS, according to the November 9, 2017, Council Questions & Answers Report, the library has not yet conducted an analysis about the estimated number of library patrons who might confine their visit to under one hour; and

WHEREAS, the Council would benefit from additional information concerning the library's parking capacity issues; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to establish a one-hour validation system for Central Library patrons that is honored for 15 minutes after validation.

The City Manager is directed to analyze and adjust parking fees to offset any lost revenue used towards the library's building maintenance costs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to return to Council with recommendations for mitigating the capacity issues caused by non-library patrons parking in the garage for extended periods of time no later than May 25, 2018.

ADOPTED: _____, 2018

ATTEST: _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk