



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Brenda Branch, Director of Libraries *BB*

DATE: April 15, 2015

SUBJECT: Response to Council Resolution No. 20141211-126

On December 15, 2014, the Austin City Council directed the City Manager to collaborate with the Association for Cultural Equity on a repatriation of Texas sound archives and work with the Music Commission on an appropriate recognition of Austin-born folklorist and musicologist, Alan Lomax.

The Austin History Center (AHC), Austin Public Library, investigated the repatriation program of the Association for Cultural Equity (ACE) and what that would involve. It also investigated the existing relationships between the University of Texas and ACE/Alan Lomax archives as UT is mentioned within the resolution. The AHC, ACE, and the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at UT believe that the Briscoe Center would be the best possible location to receive the repatriated Alan Lomax recordings and archives.

The Briscoe Center, as mentioned in the Council Resolution, already holds extensive materials related to the Lomax family in its archives, as much of the Lomax work was conducted under the auspices of the University. Additionally, UT already has a set of the Alan Lomax Texas recordings from the Alan Lomax archives at the Library of Congress. These are the same recordings that would be part of the repatriation.

The AHC will work with all the associated groups as a partner in planning a repatriation program with ACE, including helping to facilitate communications between ACE and the Briscoe Center and the Music and Entertainment Division (MED) of the Economic Development Department for the appropriate recognition. After conversations with ACE the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at UT and the MED, MED will consider the appropriate recognition for Alan Lomax.

If you should have any questions in these regards, please do not hesitate to contact me at 512-974-7444.

XC: Marc Ott, City Manager
Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager
Sue Edwards, Assistant City Manager
Kevin Johns, Director, Economic Development Department