RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2015, the City of Austin's Rules for Public
Use of City Properties were adopted administratively in accordance with the city's
rulemaking process; and

- WHEREAS, the city's rules prohibited petitioning and other free speech activities on the grounds of city properties, such as city libraries and the Palmer Events Center; and
- WHEREAS, public libraries are a cornerstone of freedom of expression under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution; and
 - **WHEREAS**, city facilities, such as the Palmer Events Center, are gathering spaces for the public; and
 - WHEREAS, in February 2018, several petitioners were asked to leave Austin Public Library facilities and one individual was issued a criminal trespass notice for petitioning on library grounds, followed by the city rescinding the trespass notice and allowing petitioners to solicit signatures on library grounds in a manner that is not disruptive to library staff or patrons while potential changes to Library Use Policy were under review; and
 - WHEREAS, the Austin Library Commission reviewed the free speech issue during public meetings of the commission held between March and October of 2018 and considered recommendations to Council on August 27, 2018 and October 22, 2018, and both times recommended that the Austin City Council change existing rules to allow non-disruptive petitioning, distributing information, non-disruptive picketing, and other First Amendment activities on library grounds; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

The City Manager is directed to review the accompanying draft ordinance, which would add a chapter to the City Code regarding use of city facilities, and provide input to Council preferably in the form of a memo prior to the December 13, 2018 Council meeting.

ADOPTED:	2018	ATTEST:		

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk