





MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

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

From: Jesús Aguirre, MBA, CPRE, Director, Austin Parks and Recreation 

Date: May 1, 2026

Subject: **Security at Zilker Clubhouse**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a response to security at Zilker Clubhouse to ensure the space is secured and protected from further break-ins, both during construction and after construction is complete.

Throughout 2025 and 2026, Zilker Clubhouse experienced multiple break-ins that resulted in significant damage and vandalism to the historic structure and surrounding assets. After the most recent event in September of 2025, Austin Parks and Recreation temporarily closed the facility and boarded up all windows and doors to prevent further damage ahead of the rehabilitation project.

The Zilker Clubhouse Rehabilitation construction scope will be a full restoration of the historic 1934 special events facility. It includes restoration of windows and doors, masonry repairs, replacement of roofing, electrical and plumbing work, and the introduction of HVAC. The building's interior will be restored to connect the back of the building to the main hall, and restrooms redesigned to meet accessibility codes. On the exterior, spaces to gather on each side of the building will be enhanced: the main terrace will be structurally upgraded, a new oval lawn will be created on the north side, and a deck area will be added on the west side.

Based on the recent increase in vandalism at the Clubhouse, the Rehabilitation project will include a minimum six-foot-tall non-climbable steel perimeter fence around the building, close to the tree line, in addition to a new gate in the parking area. The building will have a new security system with cameras, intrusion detection, and a fire alarm. Gates at the entrance to Arnulfo Alonso Drive from Rollingwood Drive and Bettis Boulevard will limit vehicle access when events are not being held at the Clubhouse. Once construction is complete, the site will be included in our directed patrols plan by the park rangers.

During construction, as enforced through the contract documents, the General Contractor will be responsible for securing the building and construction site, as well as all work, materials, and equipment, against vandals and other unauthorized people. The contractor will provide at

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minimum, six-foot-tall construction fencing, barricades, lighting, and security cameras. Any damage to the property by trespassers or others, within the construction limits, will be the contractor's sole responsibility for repair. Prior to construction starting, the Contractor will submit a site security plan for approval by the City. APR will ensure that the plan addresses security efforts to protect the site from further break-ins. All cameras will adhere to the Transparent and Responsible Use of Surveillance Technology (TRUST) Act provisions.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Alyssa Tharrett, RA, NCARB, Project Management Supervisor of Parks and Recreation at Alyssa.Tharrett@austintexas.org or Liana Kallivoka, PhD, PE, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation at Liana.Kallivoka@austintexas.gov.

cc: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Erika Brady, City Clerk
Jason Hadavi, City Auditor
Mary Jane Grubb, Municipal Court Clerk
Judge Sherry Statman, Municipal Court
CMO Executive Team
Department Directors