

RESOLUTION NO. 20150402-017

WHEREAS, Roberta Reed Crenshaw was a pioneer of the Greenbelt, "one of the leading forces behind the creation of many of Austin's best loved natural and cultural treasures," and an environmentalist before the word was coined; and

WHEREAS, with the construction of Longhorn Dam in 1960, Roberta Crenshaw recognized an opportunity to transform the area around what was then called Town Lake (now Lady Bird Lake) into a very special park and greenbelt, and was instrumental in convincing our "City Fathers" to imagine what Lady Bird Lake had the potential to become; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Crenshaw campaigned to preserve the parkland along Lady Bird Lake and helped to galvanize support for the hike and bike trail that has become an Austin landmark; and

WHEREAS, a flagstone walk near the northwest section of the Congress Avenue bridge down to the shore of Lady Bird Lake was constructed under the direction of Ms. Crenshaw and, along with a few of her own ranch hands, she personally planted 385 trees, many of which continue to bloom each spring - flowering peach, redbud, jasmine, weeping willows and other trees on the north shore from Congress to well past Lamar; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Crenshaw worked with Beverly Sheffield to imagine the first hike and bike trail and lay out the loop around the lake; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Crenshaw's vision and tireless personal commitment helped shape the Austin parks system into the nationally recognized source of pride and inspiration that it is today--by helping expand the Parks and Recreation Department, enlarging its scope beyond playgrounds and softball leagues, and giving parks a significance of their own; and

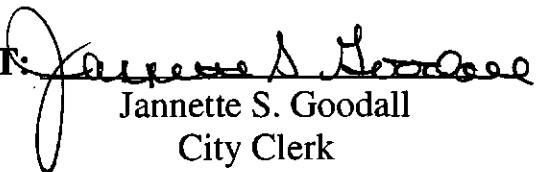
WHEREAS, Ms. Crenshaw was a visionary, but also an eminently practical person--it was she who convinced the State Department of Transportation to pay for and install the pedestrian "peoples' bridge" under MoPac, to complete the loop of the expanding hike and bike trail; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Crenshaw also tirelessly fought against the lake becoming an amusement park filled with motorboats and noise; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The City Manager is directed to initiate a process under City Code Title 14, Article 4 to name an overlook located near the southwest corner of Congress Avenue and Cesar Chavez Street after Roberta Reed Crenshaw.

ADOPTED: April 2, 2015

ATTEST: 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk