



# City of Austin

## Sabino "Pio" Renteria, Council Member District 3

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To My Fellow City of Austin Residents:

I am writing to express my support for the redevelopment of the RBJ Center. I served as a Neighborhood Representative on the Austin Geriatric Center's Strategic Planning Committee in 2011 which put together the RBJ Center Master Plan over two years and hours of work involving the City, the East Cesar Chavez neighborhood, AGC and an esteemed advisory board.

Through the collaborative community engagement process and a code amendment process, my office was able to ensure deep levels of affordability for seniors and that the surrounding development would include uses compatible with our existing neighborhoods. The RBJ Tower, which currently provides 238 apartments for low-income seniors, has been a presence in the community since the early 1970's. Neighbors, community leaders, and our office are deeply interested in the responsible redevelopment of the RBJ community.

Through the redevelopment, all of the apartments within the Tower will be rehabilitated and nearly 250 new apartments for low income seniors will be constructed around the Tower. **At completion, there will be about 500 senior apartments in total. At least 40 will serve residents at or below 30% area median income (AMI), 141 will serve residents at or below 50% AMI, and 310 will serve residents earning at or below 60% AMI.** The new RBJ community will also include some neighborhood services that residents, neighbors, and walkers and bikers from the Lady Bird Lake trail can enjoy.

RBJ will provide approximately 500 affordable senior units for City residents in an area where there are huge needs. Second, RBJ will provide a range of additional housing open to the community, which will help address a bit of the housing shortage our City has faced for years. This project is unique as it implements the vision of Imagine Austin, providing true multi-modal options, housing variety, and mixed uses designed to serve the RBJ residents and the East Cesar Chavez neighborhood. Lastly, this project provides substantial additional tax base that will help provide funds to operate and maintain other areas of our City. Overall, I believe this project exemplifies many positive goals stated in our master plan, Imagine Austin.

Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Council Member Renteria, District 3