



February 26, 2018

Chairwoman Mary Galindo - Historic Landmark Commission  
Steve Sadowsky - City of Austin Historic Preservation Office

Dear Chairwoman Galindo and Mr. Sadowsky:

Six Square - Austin's Black Cultural District (Six Square) supports the plans for renovation of Rosewood Courts Public Housing according to the current preservation principles that have been agreed to by the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA), Preservation Austin, and Mid-Tex Mod. The preservation of 8 designated units, the inclusion of green space as an homage to Emancipation Park which will help to restore an important part of East Austin's African American history, and the increased accessibility and energy efficiency of all units is a great compromise that HACA has agreed to ensure Rosewood Courts incorporates modern innovation while also respecting the rich, historic past of Rosewood.

Rosewood Courts has been a staple historic site in East Austin and has provided affordable housing to Austenite's for 70 years. The historical significance of Rosewood Courts has shaped Texas history and United States national legislation, most notably with then Congressman Lyndon Johnson working for low-income housing subsidies in the late 1930's. The renovation and preservation of Rosewood Courts will allow the rich history of a turning point in Austin's history to be protected.

Six Square fully endorses the current plan as presented, but wishes to emphasize that one of our ongoing concerns is the repatriation rights of HACA residents currently residing in Rosewood Courts. This letter of support comes with the highest belief that HACA will abide by rules outlined in RAD Notice H 2016-17/PIH 2016-17 issued by HUD that was adopted to ensure fair and legal relocation guidance and the first right to return options, without new conditions and criteria for current residents who wish to return to Rosewood. We trust that HACA will provide adequate, safe, and comfortable housing for those who will be moved during this process.

We look forward to seeing the progress of HACA, Preservation Austin, and Mid-Tex Mod on the improvements to Rosewood Courts which we believe are a fair compromise that would benefit the greatest public good by providing more affordable housing in a

community that is continuing to face great development pressures and the rapid loss of middle and low-income families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Freddie Dixon".

Rev. Freddie Dixon  
Board Chair  
1152 San Bernard Street  
512-505-8738  
[www.sixsquare.org](http://www.sixsquare.org)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nefertitti Jackmon".

Nefertitti Jackmon  
Executive Director  
1152 San Bernard Street  
512-505-8738  
[www.sixsquare.org](http://www.sixsquare.org)

# Austin Independent School District

Board of Trustees



January 18, 2018

Mary Galindo  
Austin Historic Landmark Commission

Dear Ms. Galindo,

I am the District 3 Trustee for the Austin Independent School District. It has come to my attention that the Housing Authority of the City of Austin is asking for support in its request for the historic zoning of eight buildings at Rosewood Courts so that it can proceed in its redevelopment work to make the buildings at Rosewood Courts 21<sup>st</sup> century living accommodations for the residents.

Although I do not speak for all of the trustees, I believe that the community engagement work under the leadership of Council Member Ora Houston and her support for the recommendation arrived upon by stakeholders should be honored and the request for historic zoning of the eight buildings be granted by the Austin Historic Landmark Commission. I wholeheartedly believe that the residents of Rosewood Courts deserve safe, modern, energy-efficient, attractive residences. The children who live in Rosewood Courts deserve nothing but the best, as do their families.

I, writing as an individual trustee, heartily recommend that the Austin Historic Landmark Commission grant HACA's request for historic zoning for the eight buildings located in the southwest portion of Rosewood Courts per the agreement supported by Council Member Houston.

Sincerely,



Ann Teich  
District 3 Trustee, Austin ISD



# Austin Independent School District

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Board of Trustees



February 1, 2018

Mary Galindo, Chair  
City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission

Dear Chair Galindo,

I write to express my support to the historic zoning of the proposed eight buildings at Rosewood Courts.

I understand that this would allow for redevelopment of the remainder of the site for additional affordable multifamily and affordable home ownership units and serving more people in need including families with children.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding this communication.

  
Dr. Jayme Mathias  
District 2 Trustee  
Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees





MISSIONARY SOCIETY  
OF ST PAUL

# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

1610 EAST 11TH STREET • AUSTIN TEXAS 78702

(512) 472-3741 (OFFICE)  
(512) 322-0603 (RECTORY)  
(512) 472-3783 (FAX)

**OFFICE OF THE PASTOR**

THE LORD HAS  
BREATHED SOUL INTO ME  
HE HAS SENT ME TO BRING GOOD  
NEWS TO THE POOR TO MEND  
BROKEN HEARTS TO PROCLAIM  
FREEDOM FOR THE ENSLAVED  
TO SEEK DELIVERANCE  
FOR THE OPPRESSED. LK 4

**Date:** February 28, 2018

**Subject:** Letter of Support for Rosewood Courts

Holy Cross Catholic Church supports the preservation of eight of Rosewood Courts' original 25 buildings and the redevelopment of the remaining buildings at Rosewood Courts, so that the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) may improve quality of life for its current residents, while providing affordable housing opportunities to more families in need.

Holy Cross Catholic Church has adopted our neighboring Blackshear Elementary School and we have a reciprocal arrangement in support of each other. The future viability of East Austin requires that all ethnicities and all income levels that are residents of this area of Austin have housing that is affordable and high quality.

Since 1936, Holy Cross Catholic Church has been involved in improving the quality of life of residents of the East Austin community and beyond through outreach programs, involvement with East Austin and other Community organizations as well as direct action, such as, feeding the hungry and walking the neighborhoods in Get-Out-The Vote efforts.

After the completion of the renovation of Rosewood Courts, the original residents should be given first priority to re-occupy the renovated residences.

As leaders in the Central Texas community, you no doubt understand the pressing need to enhance, improve and develop affordable housing and other programs that support the entire Austin community.

Holy Cross Catholic Church encourages you, and all City of Austin agencies that impact the quality of life in East Austin, to support a redevelopment plan for Rosewood Courts that would create quality housing for current and future residents so that the sustainability of our neighborhoods remain intact.

With Blessings,

  
Very Rev. Father Basil Aguzie, MSP  
Pastor



# *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

*Catholic Church*

*1206 East Ninth Street, Austin, Texas 78702*

*(Office) 512-478-7955 (Fax) 512-478-8377*

*www.olgaustin.org*



March 19, 2018

Council Member Ora Houston  
Austin City Council

Dear Council Member Houston,

I am writing to express my support for the preservation of eight of Rosewood Court's original 25 buildings and the renovation of its buildings so that the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) may improve the quality of life for its current residents.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church has long been involved in improving the lives of East Austin community residents through programs, services and Get Out The Vote efforts. In those efforts, it has become clear that the ability of people of all backgrounds and income levels to access housing that is both affordable and dignified is under threat in East Austin.

Built in 1939 by the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA), the brick-walled buildings have antiquated electrical, plumbing and heating systems, and no air conditioning. Without insulation, the units are prohibitively hot in the summer and cold in the winter. Our understanding is that HACA has committed to replacing all 124 affordable units onsite, ensuring current residents have the first right to return to the property (once renovated) and preserving the historic character of the buildings

In previous years, members of our congregation learned from Rosewood Courts residents how the antiquated condition of the buildings negatively impacted adult health and impeded the ability for children to sleep and be school-ready the next morning. I support HACA's commitment to the creation of the eight-building historic zone while preserving the buildings and fully modernizing the interiors so that they are brought up to current code. Current residents should have the first priority in re-occupying the renovated units.

I encourage you to approve historic zoning of the proposed eight buildings at Rosewood Courts and to support the creation of expanded affordable housing, including added rental and homeownership units within reach of low-income families.

I ask that you support a plan for Rosewood Courts that responds to resident concerns, prioritizes their return and supports the ability for families with children to live and thrive in East Austin.

Sincerely,

*F. Florencio Rodriguez*  
TOR

Friar Florencio Rodriguez, TOR

Pastor

