

Austin Parks and Recreation Department

# Naming Proposal for Ballfield at Oswaldo A.B. Cantu/Pan Am Neighborhood Park



Kimberly McNeeley, Director  
September 28, 2021

# Oswaldo A.B. Cantu/ Pan American Neighborhood Park

- Located at 307 Chicon St., Austin, Texas 78702
- 5.235 Acres
- District 3



# Neighborhood Park History

- Park established in 1955-1956
- Home of the Oswald A.B. Cantu/Pan American Recreation Center
- Park Amenities playground, community garden and Tennis/Pickleball Courts
- Home of the Hillside Theater
  - Concert Series
  - Political Rally's
  - Smaller Special Events



# History of Nominee Rosalio “Rabbit” Duran

- Described as “...pillar of decency, leadership and service to his family, community and the city he loved”
- First Hispanic individual to play on the Austin High School football team (where he earned his nick name “Rabbit”)
- Korean War Veteran – served in U.S. Navy on aircraft carrier USS Oriskany
- Owned Ciscos’ Bakery (East 6<sup>th</sup> and Chicon) which allowed him to generously donate to the East Austin Community
  - Youth Sports Sponsor
  - Adult Sports Sponsor
  - Cultural and political hub
  - Hosted fundraisers for families, friends, teams and causes

# Community Support

- Naming application and application fee submitted to Parks and Recreation Department
- Petition with 932 Individuals signed a petition in support of naming ball field in honor of Rosalio “Rabbit” Duran
- The Cantu Family submitted letter of support
- Senator Gonzalo Barrientos submitted the application
- Council Member Renteria’s Office expressed support

# Requested PARB Action

**Make a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Director supporting the naming of the ballfield at Oswald A.B. Cantu/Pan American Neighborhood Park in honor of Rosalio “Rabbit” Duran.**

# Questions