

November 7, 2022

City of Austin Community Development Commission

Attn.: Mr. Amit Motwani, Chair.

Via email to: amit.motwani@austintexas.gov

Dear Chair Motwani,

Over the next decades, the number of Central Texans over 65 is expected to continue to grow exponentially—both in number and as a percentage of the overall population. Austin has one of the fastest-growing senior populations in the U.S., and at the current rate of growth it is projected that by 2035, older adults will outnumber children in the U.S.

The mission of Meals on Wheels Central Texas is to support this growing number of older adults through programs that improve their health and quality of life. As the need for senior services increases, we recognize the importance of collaborative solutions within our community.

To this purpose, I would like to express my support for the development of an intergenerational resource and activity center (IRAC) at the vacant Nash Hernandez building. This innovative model would include an intergenerational day center (IDC) that addresses the need for adult daycare as well as provide childcare services for low-income families.

The location of the Nash Hernandez building—across from affordable senior housing at the RBJ Center for Independent Living—will provide low-income older adults with direct access to the IDC and other important resources, such as therapy facilities and geriatric primary care.

MOWCTX is committed to further support the partnership by providing meals for older adults at the IDC, while absorbing the staffing and operational costs associated with this meal program.

I would be pleased to further discuss my support of the proposal with members of the committee.

Respectfully,

Henry van de Putte III President and CEO

Meals on Wheels Central Texas

CC: Jacqueline L. Angel, Ph.D., LBJ School of Public Affairs

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