

RESOLUTION NO. 20240404-035

WHEREAS, Joan Means Khabele was born in Austin, Texas during a time when Austin's neighborhoods and public amenities were segregated as a result of the City's systematic enactment of racist policies; and

WHEREAS, in 1956, Ms. Khabele was one of the first Black students to enroll at the previously all-white Austin High School; and

WHEREAS, when Ms. Khabele and other Black students were denied the opportunity to swim at Barton Springs Pool during the Austin High School annual senior picnic because the pool was designated for white people only, she protested by jumping into the pool; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Khabele, along with other activists, bravely defied the segregationist policies of the time by participating in multiple "swim-ins," which eventually led to the integration of Barton Springs pool and other City recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Khabele earned degrees from the University of Chicago and UCLA, worked in the Peace Corps, taught in several African countries, and later returned to Austin where she raised three children and had eight grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Khabele is the daughter of Austin civil rights leader Bertha Sadler Means, who worked for the Austin Independent School District teaching elementary and secondary school students, including in segregated schools; and

WHEREAS, the Barton Springs Pool Bathhouse (Bathhouse) was built in 1947, replacing an earlier wooden structure at the same location; and

WHEREAS, the Bathhouse was built in the Streamline Moderne style, a late Art Deco style characterized by curving forms and horizontal lines; and

WHEREAS, the building is architecturally and historically significant and is designated as a State Antiquities Landmark and listed in the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, the City Council approved naming a part, or feature, of the Bathhouse the B.J. “Buster” Robinson, Sr. Information Center; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, the City Council approved naming another feature of the Bathhouse the Beverly S. Sheffield Education Center; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation fully complied with the requirements of City Code §§ 14-1-36-14-1-39 to name a park facility.

WHEREAS, community engagement survey results showed significant public support for naming the Bathhouse in honor of Joan Means Khabele; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

The Barton Springs Pool Bathhouse is named the “Joan Means Khabele Bathhouse at Barton Springs Pool.”

ADOPTED: April 4, 2024 **ATTEST:** Stephanie Hall for
Myrna Rios
City Clerk