

From: [Lajoy Edwards](#)
To: [Contreras, Kalan](#); [Dre"Chelle E](#); [Day Edwards](#)
Subject: Descendant Support for Preservation of Bethany Cemetery
Date: Sunday, February 8, 2026 10:34:57 PM

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Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for designating Bethany Cemetery in Austin, Texas as a protected historic site.

My ancestors are buried at Bethany Cemetery, and it remains one of the few surviving physical records of Black families who lived, labored, and built community in Austin during eras when their histories were rarely documented elsewhere. Preserving this cemetery protects not only sacred burial grounds, but also irreplaceable genealogical and cultural history.

Historic designation would honor descendant families, safeguard dignity for those buried there, and ensure Austin's history is preserved fully and truthfully. I respectfully urge the Committee to support permanent protection for Bethany Cemetery.

Respectfully submitted

Dreamer Edwards

Descendant of those buried at Bethany Cemetery

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