

Whereas, the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center is located adjacent to the Rainey Street Historic District - the first Mexican American neighborhood in Austin, Texas, and

Whereas, the community has expressed vigorous concerns to the Advisory Board for a proposed 40 story high-rise development directly adjacent to the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center and separated only by an alley way, that would block the view of the ESB MACC, and

Whereas, the proposed development, including the Rainey Street Historic District between River Street and Driskill Street, falls within the Central Business District (CBD), and

Whereas, Chapter 4 of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan includes stipulations to protect the integrity of neighborhood character and benefit to all stakeholders of a community, and further specified under Section LUT P4 to protect neighborhood character and sensitivity to predominant character of these communities, and Section LUT P5, to create family friendly communities, and

Whereas, current City of Austin Land Development Code (LDC) Paragraph 25-2-100 states the following:

§ 25-2-100 CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (CBD) DESIGNATION.

(A) Central business district (CBD) is the designation for an office, commercial, residential, or civic use located in the downtown area.

(B) Site development regulations applicable to a CBD district use are designed to:

- (1) *ensure that a CBD use is compatible with the commercial, cultural, historical, and governmental significance of downtown*** and preserves selected views of the Capitol;
- (2) promote the downtown area as a vital commercial retail area;
- (3) create a network of pleasant public spaces and pedestrian amenities in the downtown area;
- (4) enhance existing structures, historic features, and circulation patterns in the downtown area;** and
- (5) consider significant natural features and topography in the downtown area.

Whereas, the proposed project adjacent to the ESB MACC in the Rainey Street Historic District may not comply with LDC 25-2-100 Historical and cultural compatibility requirements,

Be it resolved that on Wednesday February 6, 2013, The Advisory Board of the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC) made the following recommendation to Austin City Council:

Direct the appropriate city staff to immediately team with a small working group of stakeholders, including three ESB MACC advisory board members, including but not limited to community and business members, with the purpose of evaluating and ensuring that LDC 25-2-100 cultural and historic compatibility and other applicable code is being correctly applied to proposed and future projects in the Rainey Street Historic District and adjacent to the ESB MACC, and

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Further develop compatibility code to preserve the historic and cultural integrity of the Rainey Street Historic District and the ESB-MACC to ensure that all currently proposed and future projects within the Rainey Street Historic District comply with compatibility of these standards, and

Temporarily delay permitting process for current and proposed projects within the National Rainey Street Historic District until these standards have been met.